



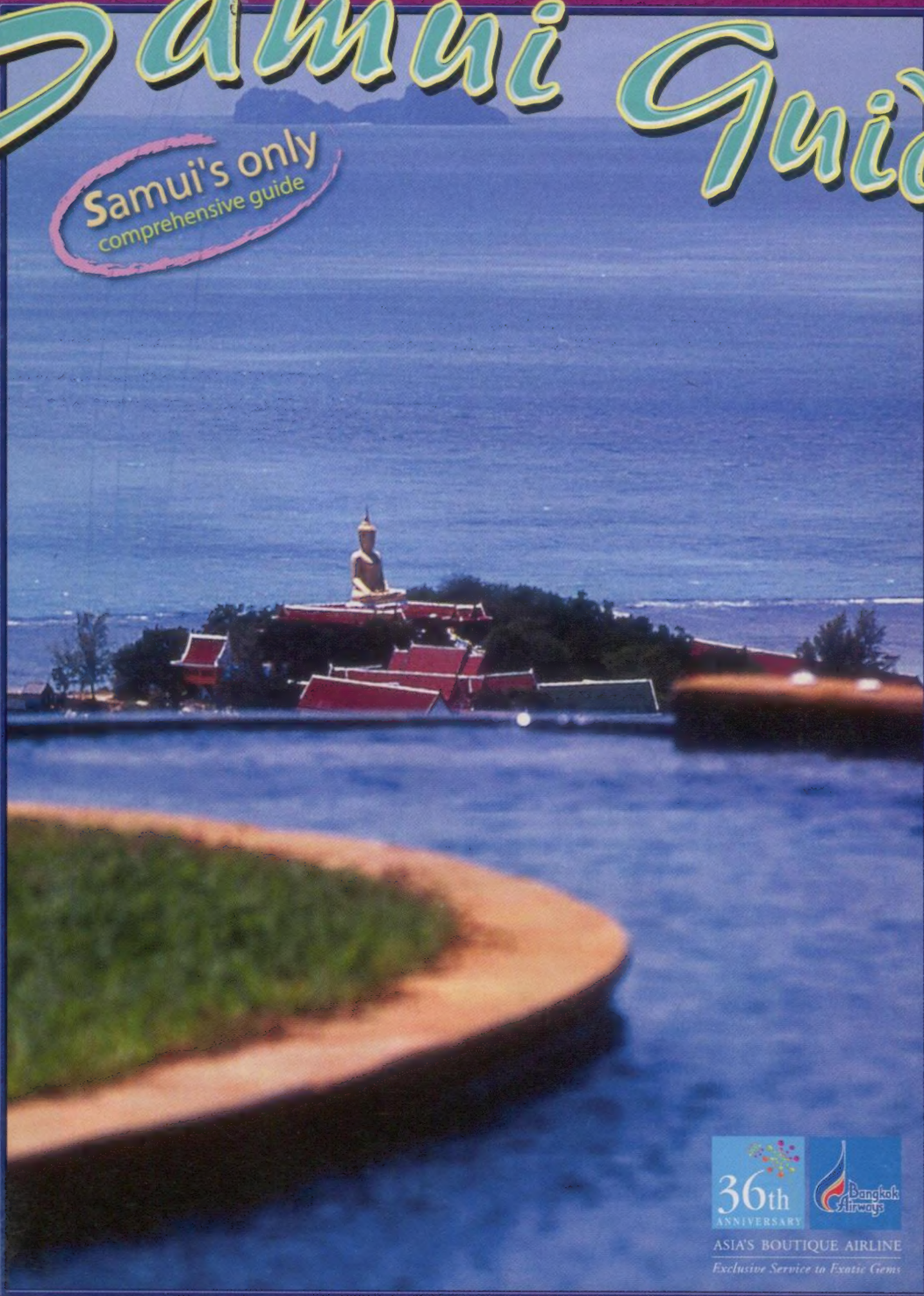
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Vol. 6 No. 10 • March 2004

Samui Guide

Samui's only
comprehensive guide



36th
ANNIVERSARY



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Your Guide

From Europe to Latin America, from Australia to the USA, very many people now recognize the name of Koh Samui. And for good reason. This beautiful tropical island has been charming its visitors ever since the first tourists arrived in 1971. Those who experience Samui are rewarded with an idyllic tropical retreat with little traffic, white-sand beaches, a sapphire-blue sea, an abundance of tantalizing Thai cuisine and an unusually warm and friendly people.

Koh Samui is just 21 kilometres at its widest point and 25 at its longest. Its hinterland consists of forests, hills of limestone and granite, and the shoreline is made up of countless palm-fringed beaches and bays. The best (and most developed) beaches are at Chaweng and Lamai on the east coast, where you can now find a very wide range of accommodation, and both restaurants and nightspots to suit every taste. Bophut and Maenam, on the calmer north coast facing Koh Phangan, are also popular beaches offering a quieter, gentler holiday experience.

Samui's natural attractions include the coral beds at Laem Sed and Tong Takien, the Hin Lat and Na Muang waterfalls and the phallic rock formations at the southern end of Lamai bay – to identify just a handful. And beyond the main island are many others well worth exploring – Koh Phangan (world famous for its monthly Full Moon Parties), Koh Tao (one of the best diving locations in Thailand) and Ang Thong National Marine Park (a compact archipelago of small and virtually untouched islands which are best explored by sea kayak).

There is a huge range of places to see and things to do on Samui and its neighbouring islands, and we hope that *Samui Guide* will give you plenty of ideas to make the most of your holiday. Inside, you will find guides to the island's best restaurants, spas, shopping facilities, natural and man-made attractions – if nothing else, we hope to get across the huge variety of experiences available here to people of all ages, tastes and budgets.

However you get here, it's likely that your first sight of Samui will be unforgettable – either traditional villages nestled along palm-fringed beaches or else Samui's beautiful and justly famous tropical airport. At any event, you can be sure that from the moment you land, the beauty and relaxed atmosphere of this island will begin to catch you in its spell.

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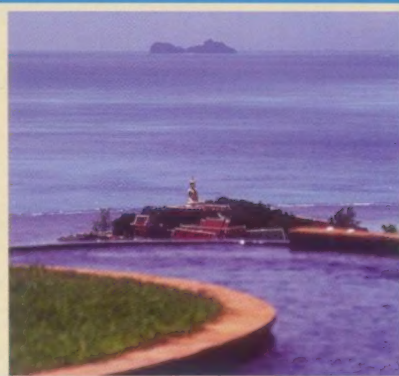
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The spectacular view from a private villa of the Big Buddha. *Real Estate starts on page 43*



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Chaweng Beach

Baan Haad Ngam Hotel & Resort
Chhaba Cabana
Samui Shooting Sport
Taxi Stop/Minimart
Samui International Hospital
Island Safari
Island Souvenir
New Samui Natien Resort
Samui Mercy Church
Nike Sport Dome
SAMUI SEAFOOD & GRILL
Nina Cabaret
Atlas Supermarket
Chaweng Boutique Tailor
JOHN TAILOR
Churascos Steakhouse
Shopping Area
BASKIN ROBBINS / DROP IN
Vecchia Napoli
Bar Solo
Capt'n's Fish & Chips
Vogue Collection
Mercurio Resort
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GRINGOS CANTINA
TREASURE ISLAND MINI GOLF
CHRISTY'S CABARET
Samui Hot Club
Lek Supermarket
HAAGEN DAZS
Kodak
Police Station
Catholic Church & Clinic
Green Mango
Medical Clinic
GB Lounge
Moby Dick Guesthouse
Bars
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VIA VAI RESTAURANT
TOP CHAROEN OPTICAL
Will Wait
Chez Andy Swiss Restaurant
Chez Andy Beer Garden
Curry Pot Restaurant
Long Table
Chilli Restaurant
Schnitzel House
Magic Light
Royal Boutique
B & B Bikini's 2
Living Square & Bowling
McDonald's
The Pizzeria Company
Saver Supermarket
Post Office
Samui Bungy Jump
Reggae Pub
2 Tone Bar
Bars
EASY DIVERS
TEFL on Samui
Thai Boxing Stadium
Stylo Tailors
Yes, Please Restaurant
Magic Light Bar
Laem Din
Fresh Market
Chedi Spa
Oriental Gallery
Sushi 2
ZICO'S REST.
LIFE'S A BEACH BIKINI
Luckana Super
ARMANI SUIT
Pod GUAPA
Colibri
Betelhut
SIDS
Piccola Italia
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JOOP! TAILOR
ALI BABA INDIAN
La Belle-Hair & Beauty
4169
Royal Scuba Diving
Rong Beer Samui
POP'S FASHION
G-ARMANI
JOOP
Rose Garden
Royal Inn
BARON FASHION
Supermarket
The Playroom
Motorbike Rental
Siam Map
Calypso Diving
Elephant Trekking
Corto Maltese Resort
Habana Club
Chaweng Pearl Cabana
Muang Kulaypan Hotel
Budsaba Restaurant
Discovery Diving
Amari Palm Reef Resort
Blue Lagoon Hotel
Island Vision Ideal
Palm Island Hotel
Dr. Supaporn Dental Clinic
Iyara Plaza & Hotel
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Siam Commercial Bank + ATM
Relax Resort
The Island Resort
Samui Ocean Sports
Chaweng Regent Beach Resort
Club Deja Vu
Chaweng Villa Resort
Bar Thai Food Garden
The Mask Beach Bar
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Sun East Bungalow
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EASY DIVERS
CHAWENG KHAOSAN RESTAURANT & BAKERY
DA PAPA
SAMUI CORAL RESORT
Toto's Restaurant
Chaweng Gardens
Dive Indeeep
DREAM GIRLS
BLUE STARS KAYAKING
Gallery La Fayette
The Quarterdeck
The Deck
Circle
Baan Chaweng Resort
Internet Centre
Siam City Bank
Watsons
Cheers Pub
CANOPY ADVENTURES
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TROPICAL MURPHY'S
Bookazine
Baap Samui Resort
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Sans Souci Resort
Samui Paradise Chaweng Resort
Sea Side Bungalow
First Bungalow
Samui Diving Service
Calypso Diving

LEGEND

- BUSINESS**
 - RESORT
 - HOTEL
 - RESTAURANT
 - SHOPPING
 - TAILOR
 - GOLD & JEWELRY
 - TRAVEL / TOUR
- ACTIVITIES**
 - POINT OF INTEREST
 - VIEWPOINT
 - ELEPHANT TREKKING
 - BUFFALO FIGHTING
 - SCUBA
 - WATERSPORT
 - BUNGY JUMPING
- ENTERTAINMENT**
 - BAR
 - PUB
 - CLUB/DISCO
- PUBLIC SERVICES**
 - GOVERNMENT
 - POLICE STATION
 - SCHOOL
 - BANK / EXCHANGE
 - POST OFFICE
 - TELEPHONE
 - GASOLINE STATION
 - TEMPLE
 - CHURCH
 - HOSPITAL
 - DOCTOR/CLINIC
 - DRUGSTORE
 - DENTIST

If you don't want to spend all your holiday lounging on a single beach, then Samui is remarkably easy to get around. In fact, a round trip by car can be done in about an hour. Of course, it makes much more sense to take a little longer and see some of the sights along the way.

Songthaews

Covered red pick-up trucks called songthaews serve as local buses during daylight hours. Each songthaew's destination is clearly marked in English on the front and sides of the vehicle. Songthaews follow fixed routes around the island but there are no official stops. Just flag down the first one you see, and confirm that the driver's going in your direction. Press the button or bang on the roof to signal when you want to get off and pay when you exit the vehicle. Fares range between 10 and 50 baht. At night songthaews also operate as private taxis and can be chartered to go anywhere, but fares can increase sharply. Should you wish to charter a vehicle late at night from Chaweng or Lamai to outlying areas such as Maenam, the fare could run as high as several hundred baht. If there are already people on board, it should still be operating as a bus and be correspondingly cheaper.

Car Rentals

Renting your own vehicle is an excellent way to get around as it allows you to explore the many small roads and tracks that lead off into the jungle-clad interior or down to one of the island's many little coves and deserted beaches. Prices vary from 800-2000 baht according to type and condition of the vehicle. Local operators generally rent manual shift Suzuki jeeps, while the major car rental companies like Avis and Budget now rent both manual and automatic sedans and air-conditioned cars and jeeps. Smaller companies will ask you to leave your passport as collateral on the vehicle. Make sure that full insurance is included, or you will be held responsible for the potentially ruinous expense of any damage to the car in an accident and compensation for others involved.

Motorbike Rentals

Most visitors to Samui rent 100cc four-gear Honda Dreams and Waves, for between 120 and 250 baht per day. Be careful that you don't get a 'Samui tattoo' –

burning your right calf on the exhaust when changing gear. Fully automatic Yamaha Neuvos are slightly more expensive (200-300 baht) but are much easier to handle. Don't forget that Samui has the highest rate of driving fatalities in the kingdom, and motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than other road users. So try and stay sober and be especially careful of sand on the road. Motorbikes do not come insured, so you will be responsible for anything that happens in an accident.

Fuel is available around the island at modern petrol stations or from roadside stands. You can spot these by the pumps attached to 55-gallon oil drums; the price is higher than in stations though. If you get a flat tyre, don't panic. You are seldom more than 100 metres from someone who can repair it or knows a neighbour who can. This takes about 30 minutes and costs about 50-100 baht – more if your whole inner tube needs to be replaced or you had to wake someone in the middle of the night. Large off-road dirt motorbikes can also be rented around the island. Prices are around 500 baht per day.

Taxis

Samui has dozens of yellow metered taxis for those who prefer to travel in air-conditioned comfort. They can be found at the airport and cruising the island's major roads throughout the day and night. The downside is that it's virtually impossible to get drivers to actually turn on their meters and prices can be high, so try to negotiate a reasonable fare before departing.

Bicycles

With a little asking around, you can find reasonably high quality bikes to rent around the island for around 80 baht a day. Don't ride at night if you can avoid it as you'll be the most vulnerable person on the road, and bear in mind that the hills between Chaweng and Lamai and between Maenam and Nathon are very steep.

Have a good trip.

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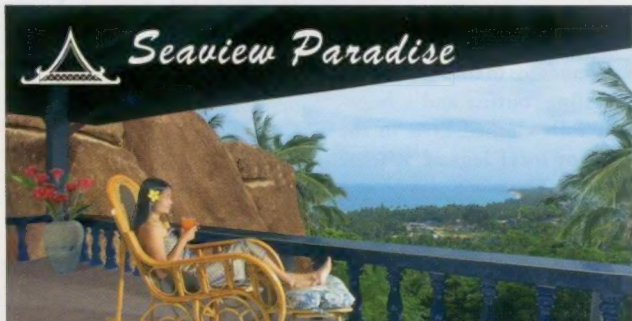
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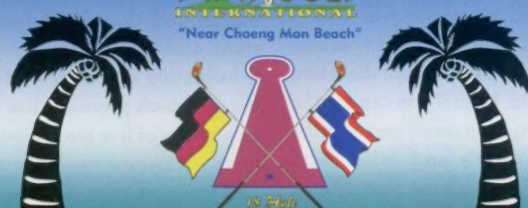
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Lamai Map



BUSINESS

- RESORT
- HOTEL
- RESTAURANT
- SHOPPING
- TAILOR
- GOLD & JEWELRY
- TRAVEL / TOUR

ACTIVITIES

- POINT OF INTEREST
- VIEWPOINT
- ELEPHANT TREKKING
- BUFFALO FIGHTING
- SCUBA
- WATERSPORT

ENTERTAINMENT

- BAR
- PUB
- CLUB/DISCO

PUBLIC SERVICES

- GOVERNMENT
- POLICE STATION
- SCHOOL
- BANK / EXCHANGE
- POST OFFICE
- TELEPHONE
- GASOLINE STATION
- TEMPLE
- CHURCH
- HOSPITAL
- DOCTOR/CLINIC
- DRUGSTORE
- DENTIST

Landmarks and Locations:

- SEA CANOE
- TAMARIND RETREAT
- MY FRIEND BUNGALOW
- SEAVIEW PARADISE
- EASY DIVERS
- POLICE
- SAKONG FURNITURE
- SAWADDEE INTERNET SERVICE
- GARDEN HOME BUNGALOW
- SPORT PUB JOOP
- VIKING DIVE CAFE
- LILY HOUSE
- CULTURAL HALL
- SAMUI MOTORHOME
- BEER BARS
- THAI CAT NURSERY
- RED FOX TOO
- LAMAI FOOD CENTER
- PAPA'S RESTAURANT
- SALA THAI
- MR. POWIN
- LAMAI CENTRAL HOUSE
- BALHAUS
- DURTY NELLY'S
- SMOOTHIE PUB
- HOLIDAY PARK BUNGALOWS
- KING'S FASHION SAWADDEE HOUSE
- T&T BUNGALOW SUPERMARKET & RESTAURANT
- SIDS
- ANGKOR ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX
- KANOK QUESTHOUSE
- PAN'S GARDEN
- VISIT RESORT
- GREEN CANYON
- GREEN CANYON GELLATERIA ROSSINI
- BR GARDEN
- WANCHAI
- CHAIY
- MOTORCYCLE & CHOPPER RENTALS
- PRO DIVERS
- ADVANTAGE PROPERTIES
- MUI DIVERS
- LONG ISLAND RESORT OSHADI SPA
- MONTANA SALOON
- ROSE GARDEN
- NEW WEEKENDER VILLA
- THE SPA RESORT
- BUDDY BEER & SUSIE PUB
- WATERFALL RESTAURANT
- NO NAME BUNGALOW
- TAPEE BUNGALOW
- NEW HUT
- BEER'S HOUSE
- WISH BUNGALOW
- LAMAI RESORT
- SAND SEA RESORT
- RIVERSIDE BUNGALOW
- RED GINGER CAFE
- CHUAN CHIM SEAFOOD
- PLATINA RESORT
- SAMUI LAGUNA RESORT
- THE PAVILION RESORT
- MUI BUNGALOW
- UTOPIA
- SUN GARDEN BEACH RESORT
- MAGIC RESORT
- LAMAI COCONUT RESORT
- WEEKENDER RESORT & HOTEL
- LAMAI BEACH HOTEL
- LANDHAUS RESTAURANT
- BONNY HOTEL
- COCONUT BEACH RESORT
- 24H SUPERMARKET
- LAMAI INN 99
- LUCKY PUB
- RENU GRILLHOUSE
- SIAM BAR & GRILL
- LAMAI WANTA
- HANG LOOSE RESTAURANT
- LUGANO PUB
- EASY DIVERS
- CAFE CAFES
- CAO RESTAURANT
- MR. SAMUI GALLERY
- TAM'S TATTOO
- POLY-NURSING
- WILL WAIT BAKERY
- MARINA VILLA
- PHARMACY
- GALAXY RESORT
- MIRA MARE
- GOLDEN SAND RESORT
- SOM THONG RESORT
- ALOHA RESORT
- BEER BARS
- AMADEUS
- VARINDA RESORT
- LAMAI PEARL
- BILL RESORT
- PARADISE BUNGALOW
- LAMAI CHALET
- NICE BUNGALOW
- AMITY BUNGALOW
- WHITE SAND
- SAMUI BEACH RESORT
- PALM RESORT
- SUNRISE BUNGALOWS
- GRAND ROCK RESORT
- HINTA HINYAI



Samui SCENE

Murphy's Day

It's that time of the year again. On March 17th Samui's Irish community and a few hundred of their close friends will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the island's biggest and best Irish boozer: Tropical Murphy's. As ever, owner Paul Watson is pulling out all the stops to keep the crowd entertained – there'll be a live band playing traditional

Irish music, the Ovada band playing a selection of rock and pop standards in their trademark 'revealing' outfits and a hopelessly fully-clothed Elvis in the form of local legend Ritchie Newton. There will also be special promotions on Guinness, Kilkenny, Bulmers Cider, Heineken, Carlsberg and Crazy Horse, the island's only micro-brew. You can even feel good about being inebriated, as all profits will go to the Emma O'Herlihy Fund. Seven-month-old Emma desperately needs surgery at Moorefields Eye Hospital in London, which will cost 4 million baht, or she risks becoming totally blind before she is two years old. Even if you can't make the party, donations are welcome at Murphy's and other bars around the island throughout the month – keep an eye out for the collection boxes. *Tropical Murphy's, Central Chaweng. (Chaweng Map).*

Aiming High

Fans of the green baize rejoice – Samui's first bona fide international standard pool hall is about to open in Chaweng. Shooters is located in a suitably cavernous warehouse opposite Central Samui Beach Resort and has all the bases covered – eight competition standard Brunswick tables, a soundproofed room to play in, a big screen TV for sports, a full Thai and international menu and a separate playstation and table football room for kids of all ages. The official opening is on the 1st of March and there'll be promotions and giveaways all week, culminating in a huge party on the 6th which promises live music and lots of free pool, food and beer. *Shooters, Central Chaweng, Open 9am - 2am daily.*



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COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

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- ¾ Measure Blue Curaçao.
- ½ Measure Lime Juice.
- 4 Measures Pineapple Juice.
- 2 Measures Sprite.

The Cliff
BAR & GRILL

Shake over crushed ice. Strain into a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of dragon fruit.

The Cliff is one of the classiest restaurant openings Samui has seen for some time. Located on Route 4169 between Chaweng and Lamai, the restaurant boasts fantastic sea views, a very comfortable bar with good chill-out tunes, a large selection of reasonably priced New World Wines and a comprehensive Mediterranean menu with lots of specials such as Portuguese Piri Piri Chicken, Ameijoas a'

Bulhao Pato (clams in white wine sauce) and Gambas com Caril (Goan curried prawns) that are not available elsewhere on the island. In short, it's the perfect place to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon.

THE CLIFF IS OFFERING A FREE CLIFFHANGER THROUGHOUT MARCH TO ANYONE WITH THIS COPY OF SAMUI GUIDE. *The Cliff Bar and Grill, Route 4169, Tel. 01 913 2002.*

TREND 2003 - A



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Frog and Gecko Quiz

1. Which sea contains 4 ounces of salt to every pint of water?
2. Who cut off Van Gogh's ear?
3. What is the nickname of the South African rugby team?
4. How many degrees in a semi-circle?
5. In which country did the Beatles play their last live show?



If you think these are too easy, then get down to The Frog & Gecko on a Wednesday night this month and try your luck at their Original Samui Pub Quiz. Started over a year ago by owners Graeme and Raphaella, the quiz has been taxing teams with questions on sport, science, history and general knowledge ever since. The first round starts at 9pm, though it tends to get very busy, so get there early to be sure of a seat. If you're feeling peckish, the F&G's Thai food and delicious authentic Indian curries are also highly recommended. Also check out their Sunday Jazz & Blues Buffet, which promises masses of food, complimentary wine and live jazz, of course, from 3pm onwards. *The Frog & Gecko, Fisherman's Village, Bophut, Open 12pm - 2am daily. (North Coast Map) ANSWERS ON PAGE 50.*



The Koh Somatic Solution

Devised in the USA over twenty years ago, Somatic Education is one of the more plausible alternative therapies to arrive on the island recently. Previously based on Maui, Cynthia Lindway is one of only 80 Hanna Somatic Educators certified in the world today and now offers individual and group classes on Samui at the Koh Somatics centre. Although it bears some resemblance to yoga, HSE is a highly developed, but relatively easy to learn, series of exercises designed to relieve pain and improve muscle control, which are a lot less exerting than most yoga moves. The results can be quite startling – Merideth Collard, who's helping Cynthia out at the centre, spent fourteen years in a wheelchair as a result of a botched operation on her ankle. Ten doctors told her she'd never walk again before she decided to give Somatics a try. As a result of her work with Cynthia, she's now fully mobile once more. Obviously, not all the results are quite as dramatic as this, but anyone with persistent back, arm or leg pain should consider giving the course a try. Koh Somatics, Chaweng – 100 metres down the road opposite Tesco – Tel. 01 970 1705. samuisomatics@hotmail.com



Siddhartha

Selling what owners Barak and Dana describe as 'island style clothing', Siddhartha is highly recommended for people seeking groovy, comfortable and well-made attire. The shop sells a whole range of gear from its own collection as well as imports from Bali, India, Hong Kong and Singapore. The hand-beaded handbags from Hong Kong are particularly eye catching and they promise to have a large selection of funky Balinese sarongs in stock in March. The couple spend a lot of time trawl-



ing Asia for their stock and the results show in the eclectic selections, which are a cut above most other garments available on the island. *North Chaweng, Near Poppies, Open 1pm - 11pm everyday, Tel. 06 707 6010.*



Four Seasons

Recently opened in the centre of Chaweng, the Four Seasons Tropical Spa raises the quality bar considerably for anyone wanting a massage, wrap or facial in the island's biggest town. Beautifully designed around a courtyard garden in an

elegant tropical style, featuring lots of stone carving, silk hangings and Asian *objet d'art*, the Four Seasons is also very convenient for anyone staying in town. Massage treatments include traditional favourites like Thai and Swedish (here renamed Summer

and Autumn to stay with the theme), Foot Reflexology and their signature Winter Massage, which is unique on the island and uses hot stones and essential oils to stimulate the lymphatic system and detoxify the body. There are also thirteen different wraps and facials on offer, five bath therapies and several hand, foot and hair treatments. Many of these can be combined in one of the spa's excellent value two to four-hour packages. *Central Chaweng, Tel. 077 414 141-3 (Chaweng Map).*

Bigger Elephant

Long popular amongst the Brit expat community for its authentically recreated London pub ambience, The Elephant and Castle in Big Buddha recently closed its doors and called time for good. Thankfully, for anyone craving one of their su-



perb Sunday Roasts, it was only so they could move across the road to a far superior beachside location. Now boasting separate bar and dining areas and its own beer garden, The Elephant is a great spot for whiling away a sunny afternoon (which they almost always are here) with a pint or two. Evening time it tends to get much busier as people flock from miles around to tuck into sausage and mash, homemade steak and kidney pie, fish 'n' chips, baked spuds and the like. There's also a surprisingly large veggie section for non-carnivores. *Big Buddha Beach, 9am - 2am daily (North Coast Map).*

Sparkling Bianca

Fisherman's Village's chicest Italian restaurant Villa Bianca is looking classier than ever following a recent revamp. The new bar area is a perfect place to chat with the affable owners Guido and Malcolm, before or after a meal. There's also one of the best

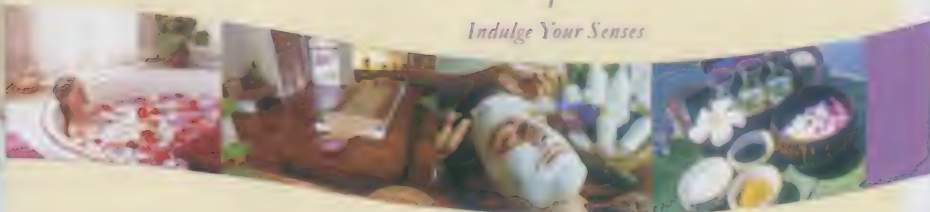


selections of champagnes and sparkling wines on offer anywhere on Samui. If you're feeling extravagant, splash out on a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin '93 for 19,300 baht; if not then the Italian Moscato Dolce Mionette and half bottle of Laurent Perrier are great value at under 2,000 baht. The restaurant is now also one of the few places on the island to serve tank fresh lobsters, which find their way into a variety of dishes – the Lobster Tagliatelle is especially highly recommended. *Fisherman's Village, Bophut, 1pm - 2am daily. (North Coast Map).*



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Around the Island

Whether you get around Samui by foot, elephant, motorcycle or car, you will find a wealth of natural beauty and cosmopolitan luxury. The island is small enough to drive a car around in about an hour. But it is big enough to still discover new things and beautiful places even if you stay for weeks. While the most visited areas have roads lined with shops and businesses, much of the island remains covered with coconut groves, rice paddies and forest. A sense of adventure and a bit of exploratory effort will be rewarded with everything from sophisticated shops and restaurants to serene hikes, jungle drives and spectacular tropical views.

Chaweng

Chaweng is the longest beach and biggest town on Samui. There are dozens of hotels and bungalows along its fine white sand beach. You can find anything from 5-star luxury to the few budget bungalows that remain from Samui's days as a backpacker's haven. Accommodation prices are higher than elsewhere on Samui but Chaweng re-

mains party central and has the highest density and widest selection of clubs, bars and restaurants on the island.

Lamai

Lamai is Samui's second-largest beach and some say its most beautiful. The water is excellent for swimming at the bay's southern end

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and is studded with elegant granite boulders. Nightlife in Lamai Town tends to be of the girly bar variety, although there are a few decent expat watering holes and a couple of decent clubs. There are also some high quality out-of-town eating, drinking and accommodation options.

Nathon

All government offices and banks are located in Nathon and it is the primary point of connection with the mainland and the other islands. Shopping here is less expensive than in Chaweng or Lamai, and there are lots of interesting knick-knacks for sale. Most shops are on the inland road, which is one-way heading south. However, the ocean road has a number of good restaurants for breakfast or lunch, and the teak shophouse-lined middle road gives a decent glimpse into Samui's local world.

Big Buddha Beach

Its proximity to the airport makes Big Buddha very convenient if you're flying in. The resorts here tend to be well-spaced and laid-back beachside affairs attracting long and short-term guests alike. Prices remain relatively low and they're a great place for a party, as Secret Garden proves with its weekly festival. There are a growing number of fine dining options too.

Bophut

Bophut is easily the most charming village on Samui and is made up of a single strip of old Chinese shophouses, many converted into restaurants, bars, shops and guesthouses. Altogether, a great spot for a romantic beachside dinner. Both the cuisine and the architecture lend a distinctly Mediterranean feel to the village. Popular with

the French for the past eight years or so, Bophut is now attracting a growing number of British tourists and bar/restaurant owners.

Hua Thanon

At the 90-degree turn just south of Lamai is the Muslim fishing village of Hua Thanon. There are a few new restaurants on the main road, but the main attraction is the artistry of the local fishermen. Their intricately painted boats dock just offshore from the thriving market. The beach is not good for swimming, but a stroll along it affords a glimpse into the real life of one of Samui's main economic activities.

Lipa Noi

Just south of Nathon is one of the best places to catch the sunset. There are a couple of good bungalows on Lipa Noi and some excellent seafood restaurants. But the real wonder of Lipa Noi is the shallow water. You can wade out for 200 metres and the water is still no higher than your waist. The velvety feel of the ocean bottom here attracts local children as well as visitors in the late afternoons.

Maenam

Accommodation on Maenam's long sedate beach is mainly of the cheap bungalow variety, although there are now several four and five-star resorts as well. The number of good restaurants and businesses along its main road is steadily increasing. There are numerous high-quality holiday and residential home developments and a growing community of long-term visitors.

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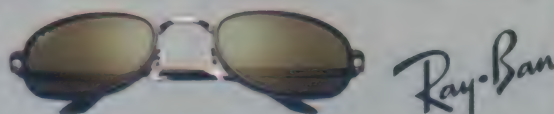
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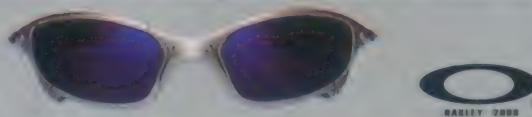
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Samui's natural environment is its biggest attraction. The lushness of the greenery, the blue of the sea, the fantastic beaches, the hidden waterfalls and elegant geography have been attracting both new and repeat visitors for years. Travellers, from temperate countries especially, can hardly fail to be impressed by the sheer diversity of Samui's natural wonders. Explore to your heart's content, but please respect the island environment. Don't spoil the experience for others by picking wild plants or leaving rubbish behind.

Samui Natural Wonders

Na Muang 1 Waterfall

Not far from the 4169 ring-road between Hua Thanon and Nathon, in the southwest sector of the island, this waterfall is easily accessible to visitors. Rocks and tree roots form a natural staircase leading directly to a large pool at the base of the waterfall. Be careful when diving or swimming in the pool, however, as sharp rocks are hidden by the frothing of the fall. Elephant trekking is also available here. (Koh Samui Map K6)

Thanon and Nathon), and drive right into the hills about 2km past Baan Chang Elephant Trekking. A one-kilometre walk will then take you to this beautiful high-altitude fall, which has been accessible to the public for only a year. (Koh Samui Map M7)

Hin-Ta and Hin-Yai

These two stones, called Grandmother and Grandfather respectively, have been naturally crafted by the elements to resemble male and female genitalia. The stones are a favourite tourist destination and equally popular with local Thais on weekends. The road leading to the sights is lined with some nice gift shops. This is the best place to buy the beautiful bowls and vases made from Samui's coconut palm wood. This is also one of the few places to buy *garamear*, Samui's own coconut candy – a tasty glutinous mixture of coconut, palm sugar and sticky rice. Follow the 4169 ring-road southwest of Lamai, and look out for the signs. (Koh Samui Map R5)

Na Muang 2 Waterfall

Take the concrete road to the left, south of Na Muang 1 on the ring-road and follow it until it becomes a track. Continue to the end. A pleasant 10-minute walk up a rocky path will bring you to the base of the most beautiful waterfall on the island. (Koh Samui Map K6)

Wang Saotong Waterfall

Turn right off the 4169 ring-road at Wat Kunaram near Ban Tha Po (between Hua



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Overlap Stone

On the north side of the 4169 ring-road, this rock has a precarious perch overhanging a daunting cliff-top high above Lamai. A proper dirt bike will get you most of the way up, but unless you're feeling brave, you really shouldn't attempt it on a scooter. Walking all the way can be pretty exhausting, but the view is fantastic and there's a refreshment stand to help you recuperate when you arrive. One kilometre west of Hin-Yai. (Koh Samui Map P5)

Hin Lad Waterfall

Cool down after an enjoyable 2km walk along a jungle path by taking a dip in a beautiful swim-

ming pool under this waterfall. Tough shoes and leg protection are recommended for the walk, but the swim makes it well worth it. Packing a picnic will allow you to spend a couple of hours here and really enjoy the solitude. At the foot of the falls is Hin Lad monastery, which is worth seeing as well. The tranquil feel of the grounds and the Buddhist maxims lining the path should encourage those in need of enlightenment. The falls are on the eastern end of route 4172, 2km south of Nathon. (Koh Samui Map H11)

Beyond Samui

The other islands within Samui's gravitational pull also offer many natural wonders.

Koh Taen, off the southern shore, has excellent hiking trails for an easy stroll or a serious all-day trek through the jungle. The island is largely uninhabited but has several nature study points maintained by the Koh Taen Conservation Club. Legend has it that dogs cannot survive a night on the island. This is probably due to the high frequency calls emitted by the thousands of bats that call Koh Taen home and can be seen clouding the sky (and heading for Samui) at dusk. You can arrange longtail boat transport to Koh Taen from Thong Krut Bay on Samui's southern shore.

Ang Thong National Marine Park is a compact archipelago of mostly uninhabited islands west of Samui that provided the setting for Alex Garland's *The Beach*. There is good snorkelling, diving, hiking and even camping on some of the islands. Many people regard sea kayaking as the best way to explore the area. You can arrange to have a speedboat take you to the park or book a tour with one of the many operators that offer regular services.

Koh Nangyuan is a spectacular little place. Three small islets are connected by an incredible beach. There are no roads and no motors on this island, so it is very quiet. But there are bungalows and dive tour operators so you can take a couple of days to check out the island's sea life. Since there is almost no infrastructure, bungalow owners request that you do not bring plastic bottles or other items to the island that will be difficult to dispose of.



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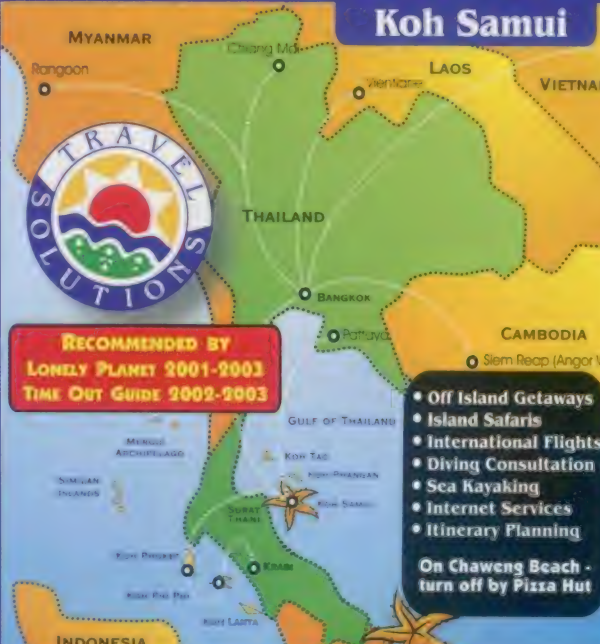
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Koh PHANGAN

The Trip

The most reliable option is the ferry to Had Rin from Big Buddha pier – about five minutes drive from the airport, (10.30am, 1.00pm and 4.00pm). There's also a ferry from Nathon, which leaves for Thong Sala three times a day at frequently changing times, and a longtail from Maenam (just round the corner from the 711) that stops at all the beaches from Had Rin to Tong Naipan when it's operational – check with Travel Solutions (see page 50) for details.

Once you arrive at your chosen destination, the best advice is to chill out and enjoy it – Phangan's roads are ten times worse than Samui's and are often no more than muddy rutted tracks. Songthaews run reasonably frequently between Had Rin and Tong Sala, but on the rest of the island can be as infre-

quent as twice a day. Songthaews and private boats are available for private charter, but only at exorbitant rates.

The Beaches

Had Rin West is where the Big Buddha ferry docks and is shallow and very rocky. **Had Rin East** is the home of the Full Moon Party (see Dusk 'Til Dawn) and is Phangan's nightlife central. It's also the major hub for longtails, which means that swimming is often out of the question on the otherwise very pleasant beach. Bungalows and guesthouses are cheap and plentiful, but remember that even on a non-Full Moon night, you're likely to be kept up until 2am by the bar's sound systems. Con-

siderably quieter is **Had Leela** a short stroll to the end of the isthmus.

Had Yuan, a ten-minute longtail ride away from Had Rin, has excellent swimming and several quality stilt bungalow operations.

Had Tien is home to the **Sanctuary Spa and Wellness Centre** (www.thesanctuary-kpg.com), which has a great vegetarian restaurant and a wide range of quality accommodation. The beach isn't that great though.

The pristine **Tong Naipan** is great for snorkelling and is very popular with families. It also has plenty of decent accommodation including **Panviman Resort** (077 238 543), the island's only three-star option.

Bottle Beach is considered by many to be Phangan's most chilled beach and attracts many long stay backpackers with basic, but very cheap, beach huts.

Had Yao on the west coast isn't the best of beaches, but it is overlooked by **Tantawan Bungalows** (01 229 4804), which boasts great French food and one of the island's best swimming pools.

Eating, Drinking, Dancing

All the beaches have passable to excellent Thai restaurants; for more international flavours, **Had Rin** is the only place to be. Try **Shell** (on the lake) for top-notch Italian and the best coffee on the island, **Om Ganesh** (main road) for very cheap northern Indian, **Niras Bakery** (crossroads) for all manner of pies, pastries and sandwiches or **Bamboozle** (just off the main road) for authentic Spanish treats.

The beach bars are mostly of a reasonably similar, techno-orientated ilk apart from **Drop Inn** and **Cactus**, which also play reggae, rock, and Euro-house. Alternatively, for less volume, pub grub and a very friendly atmosphere, head for the **Outback Bar** (main road).

The clubbing scene has cooled somewhat since the social order crackdown started but **Harmony** (behind Bamboozle) and **Backyard** (road to Had Leela) are both packed most nights and play any kind of music as long as its trance.

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Wat Phra Yai

This temple is the home of the 12-metre-tall Big Buddha, Samui's most famous landmark. At the base of the structure, shops and restaurants cater to the needs of devotees and tourists alike. *Route 4171 near the airport. (Koh Samui Map U15)*

Wat Kiri Wongkaram

This temple is noted for the mummified body of the Buddhist monk Loung Por Ruam, which has been on display for the last 25 years. *Follow Route 4170 south from Ban Saket, then turn right between the two giant elephant statues and look for the temple 1km farther along on the right. (Koh Samui Map E5)*

The Coral Buddha

Formerly one of Samui's main attractions, this small, dilapidated statue is now only visited by Buddhist devotees. The only direction sign is a tatty

little roadside board, easy to miss when driving past. *Route 4169 800m west of Hua Thanon on the right. (Koh Samui Map P4)*

The Lord Buddha's Footprint

There are actually four artistically engraved footprints here, superimposed one upon the other and housed in a modest shrine 150 steps up a steep hill. *Go up the concrete slope on the left. 2km west of the turnoff for the Butterfly Garden on route 4170. (Koh Samui Map O3)*

Wat Sumret

This old temple is the guardian of the ancient White Marble Buddha, believed by many, including the resident monks, to be many hundreds of years old. It also harbours within its grounds the Secret Hall of Buddhas, which will only be opened on request. *200m down the second concrete road on the left,*

west of Hua Thanon on Route 4169. (Koh Samui Map N3)

The Laem Sor Chedi

This ornately designed chedi (pagoda) sits on the rocks at the water's edge on the grounds of Wat Laem Sor. *Off Route 4170 between Ban Tale and Ban Pang Ka. Follow the track with a sign that reads "Waikiki Bungalows" to the end. (Koh Samui Map I2)*

Wat Khunaram

The body of Samui's most famous mummified monk,

Loung Pordaeng, is on display here in the same meditation position he died in over 20 years ago. *Route 4169 between the Na Muang waterfalls and Hua Thanon. (Koh Samui Map M4)*

Wat Sila Ngu

Said to contain a relic of the Lord Buddha, the golden chedi facing the temple entrance is a popular place of worship. *Route 4169, 1km south of Hin Ta/Hin Yai on the beach side. (Koh Samui Map P4)*

Wats to See

When visiting temples, please remember to dress politely (no beachwear or revealing costumes) and behave with the appropriate respect on temple grounds.

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Things to do and Places to go

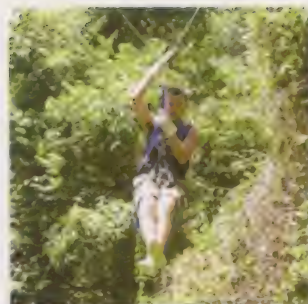
For assistance with booking any of the activities below, call Travel Solutions at 077 230 203 or drop into their beachside Chaweng office.

Adventure Sports

If you're after an adrenaline rush, you have a number of options. You can head to Samui Shooting Sport on the main road between Bophut and Chaweng (Koh Samui Map R11) where you can blast away at paper targets with a variety of lethal weapons. You can head to Samui Quads and Paintball behind Maenam, (North Coast Map) to ride around a professionally sculpted, football-pitch-sized terrain or play a variety of tactical games with BB guns in the jungle. Tel. 01 371 0744.

To get a bird's-eye view of the jungle, check out Canopy Tours, which allows you to travel between treehouses in a harness attached to a high tensile cable. Tel. 077 414 150 or drop into their office on the beach in Chaweng. (Chaweng Map)

Mountain bike enthusiasts should check out Red Bicycle,



which offers a range of half and full day off-road trips into Samui's mountainous interior and longer tours around Ranong on the mainland. All the trips include lunch and all equipment, which is kept in perfect condition. For those wanting to go it alone, the shop also has Merida, Cannondale and Italian-made waterbikes for rent. Tel. 077 232 136. (Lamai Map)

Bowling

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fun, funky alley. It's in central Chaweng above McDonald's and open 10am-2am. Price: 100 baht per game per person. Tel. 077 413 258. (Chaweng Map)

Buffalo Show

Bringing back some of the traditional way of rural life to Samui, Living Thailand offers a pleasant diversion from the rigours of the beach. Situated among paddy fields and rolling hills in the south of the island, visitors can enjoy buffalo-cart rides, buffalo theatre and a Thai farming museum. The theatre show includes demonstrations of rice planting and paddy ploughing, and visitors are welcome to join in. Multi-lingual guides are on hand throughout. Tel. 077 418 680 for showtimes. Route 4173. (Koh Samui Map L4)

Butterfly Garden

Butterflies are among the most easily observed and beau-



tiful examples of the island's richly varied wildlife. You can see many vividly coloured species of tropical butterflies in this scenic, netted hillside setting. Since butterflies only live for about two weeks, the garden raises its own and has a great display of caterpillars, cocoons and adults. Open 9am-6pm. Price: 120 baht for adults, 60 baht for children under 12. (Koh Samui Map N3)

Dog Rescue

Unfortunately, stray and abandoned dogs in varying states of health can still be found everywhere on Samui. But the pooch's lot has improved dramatically over the past three years since the Dog Rescue Centre Samui (DRCS) was founded by a dedicated group of animal lovers. DRCS provide essential medical care, food and a home for many canines and can advise on how to take a dog back to Europe with you (which is easier than you might think). None of this comes cheap and the DRCS needs to raise 150,000 baht every month for dog food and medication. This is where you can help. Simply log on to www.samuidog.org for details of how to make a donation, or, if you have time, help out at the centre for a day. Tel. 077 413 490 or e-mail info@samuidog.org

Elephant Trekking

If you like to enjoy the scenery without the noise of an engine disturbing the peace, then why not go on an elephant trek? Elephants are no longer employed in Thailand for traditional logging work and so have plenty of free time to work with visitors – even on Samui, where they are not native. Despite their huge size, elephants are incredibly sure-footed, even on steep and narrow trails – and the world looks wonderful from their backs, three metres up. Standard trips last half an hour, although longer trips can be requested. For more information, call Living Thailand. Tel. 077 418 680/1.

Golf

The world-class 18-hole SantiBuri Golf and Country Club has recently opened in Maenam. Tel. 077 418 557 for more information. (North Coast

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Heaven's Garden

This is an extraordinary sculpture garden created by an extraordinary man. Nim Thongsuk was a fourth generation

Samui native. At the age of 77, he began creating figures based on Buddhist scriptures and was still working on the garden when he died a few years ago at the age of 91. The garden not only displays Khun Nim's wonderful sculptures, but offers a great view of the island's hills and forests. To get to Heaven's Garden, take the asphalt air force road in Ban Saket, turn right about 1km before the end of the road, then follow the dirt track for 400m. If you get lost, ask for Nam Tok Ta-nim. (Koh Samui Map L8)

Jungle Tours

Several areas of Samui are covered with dense tropical jungle which can be reached by jeep and/or a short hike. The beauty and natural diversity of these areas easily justifies tearing yourself away from the beach for a day. Most travel agents have information about the various tours

available and will make a reservation for you.

Running

The Hash House Harriers are sometimes described as 'runners with a drinking problem', sometimes as 'drinkers with a running problem'. Either way, they gather every other Saturday to run. They meet at Tradewinds Cottages in Chaweng at 3.30pm and the Red Fox Bar in Lamai at 4pm, and from there head to an always different location for some running fun and seriously entertaining company. Call Peter Plant on 09 726 5728 for more information.

Samui Aquarium & Tiger Zoo

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viewed in their natural habitat. There are also five tigers on the prowl in outdoor cages. Open from 9am-6pm at Samui Orchid Resort. Price: 350 baht per person. Tel. 077 424 017. (Koh Samui Map O3)

Snake Farm

Even if you're not keen to venture into Samui's remaining forests, you can still get some of the thrill from the snake farm's daily shows. They feature ten different species of snakes as well as centipedes, scorpions and lizards. Snake handlers boast the longest King Cobra in Thailand, which is on display at the farm's King Cobra House. On occasion, the snake farm also performs a valuable service by capturing unwanted snakes from the yards of locals and giving them roles in the show. Show times are 11am and 2pm daily. Price: 250 baht per person. There is also a restaurant on the

premises. Tel. 077 423 247. (Koh Samui Map F5)



Tattoos

Looking for a permanent souvenir of your visit to Samui? French expat Esther of **Tattoo Mania** offers a wide range of modern, tribal and traditional designs, each uniquely adapted for each customer. Interested parties are advised to give Esther two to three days to complete a design before going under the needle. She also recommends having the tattoo done on the final day of your holiday, so as not to miss out on any swimming or sunbathing. **Tattoo Mania**, Bophut Fisherman's Village, Tel. 09 868 2558. (North Coast Map)

Thai Boxing

Muay Thai is Thailand's national sport and taken very seriously indeed. An evening's entertainment can feature as many as 10 fights before getting to the main bout and can last up to three hours. Unless you're a devoted fight fan, it's probably best just to drop in for an hour or so. The pre-fight rituals and the traditional music throughout are as much a part of the event as the fights themselves. Widely considered to be the world's most dangerous martial art, Thai boxing is a superb showcase of speed, grace and discipline. There are two permanent stadiums on Samui. The first is in Chaweng, just off the road leading to the Reggae Pub. Boxing matches are held here every Monday and Friday at 9pm. (Chaweng Map) The other stadium is in Lamai on the road connecting the main road to Route 4169.

Thai Cooking

One of the best things about Thailand, of course, is the food. If you want to have more than a passing knowledge of classic Thai dishes, then you can learn how to cook them yourself. A culinary institute and several hotels offer demonstrations and hands-on practical experience involving both Thai ingredients and cooking techniques. Introductory and intensive courses are both available and range from a few hours to a whole week. For more information contact: **Samui Institute of Thai Culinary Arts (SITCA)** - Tel. 077 413 172 (Chaweng Map), **Health Oasis Resort** - Tel. 077 420 124 (North Coast Map), **Central Samui Beach Resort** - Tel. 077 230 500 (Chaweng Map) or **Laem Set Inn** - Tel. 077 424 393. (Koh Samui Map M2)



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Antiques & Furniture

Be careful if you're here to buy genuine antiques. There is a thriving industry that produces top-quality reproductions. These objects can be beautiful and are good buys in their own right... provided they are sold at copy prices. **Java Teak** is well worth checking out for high quality furniture including chairs, cabinets, tables and beds. Route 4169. Tel. 077 447 249. (North Coast Map)

Books

For a comprehensive selection of new books and all the latest mags, go to **Bookazine**, opposite McDonald's in central Chaweng.

Tel. 077 413 616. There are also numerous second-hand bookshops around the island. By far the best is **Nathon Books** on the same road as the pier.

Discs

The discs at market stalls are obviously pirated, but the quality of CDs can nevertheless be pretty good. DVD's are a bit more hit and miss – a bad soundtrack can frequently render them unwatchable, so ask for a demo if possible. Older films and DVD tend to be of higher quality, though the price will be higher also. Games and software should also be treated with caution. Expect to pay from 100-200 baht per disc.

Jewellery

Most of the world's gemstones are sent to Bangkok for cutting and setting, and the prices in Thailand can be considerably lower than elsewhere. Local gold and gemstone jewellery can be a bargain. But beware of unscrupulous dealers who prey on ill-informed customers – every year, the Tourism Authority of Thailand fields over 1,000 complaints about jewellery scams. It's best therefore to stick to established shops such as **Classic Gems**, Tel. 077 230479. For top-quality silverware, check out **Farn Shop** next to the Big Buddha Wat, Tel. 077 245 245.

Optical Services

Designer frames and contact lenses are excellent value on Samui. Professional eye examinations, contact lenses, Ray Bans, Oakleys and the latest ultra-thin Japanese lenses are available at **Sawang Optical**. Tel. 077 230 720, on Chaweng Beach Road.

Beautiful Optical in Chaweng, Tel. 077 230 052, and Nathon, Tel.

077 236 362 stocks a good range of frames. As does **Top Charoen Optical** at its various branches: Chaweng, next to Pizza Hut, Tel. 077 413 706, and also in front of Chaweng Cove Resort; Nathon, Tel. 077 420 442; and Lamai next to Weekender Beach Resort. Market stall fakes give no UV protection, despite stickers to the contrary.

Sportswear and Surfware

Adidas gear is made under licence in Thailand and is considerably cheaper than in the West. Similarly, Nike and Reebok also have factories here making clothes and trainers mainly for export, so products crop up in sports shops and occasionally on market stalls. If you want guaranteed authenticity then stick to sports shops, although the copies widely available on market stalls are often pretty good quality. Real surfwear is available at **Hardcore Surf** in central Chaweng (next door to McDonald's). All the usual suspects such as Quicksilver,

SHOPPING

From market stalls piled high with fake watches and sportswear to upmarket antique shops, Samui has something to satisfy most shoppers. Bargain hard for market stall purchases – be friendly but unafraid to walk away if you don't like the price. Most enclosed shops have fixed prices.

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Roxy, Surfer Girl, Rip Curl, Oakley and Fresh Jive are for sale.

Swimwear

Life's a Beach specialises in the finest Australian bikinis. Brand names include Seafolly, Wahine, Wet Wet Wet, and Bodypaint. Sizes vary from 6 through to 18 and many are reversible. Bags are by Condura, Australia. (Opposite Central Samui Beach Resort between Osteria restaurant and the Rock Pub. 11am-11pm).

Tailoring

Samui offers a great deal of choice when it comes to bespoke clothing. Try to leave enough time for at least two fittings. It's always worth negotiating on price if you want several items, and don't be afraid to ask for alterations if dissatisfied. The following can be recommended: Baron Fashion Tel. 077 230 406; John Tailor Tel. 077 413 467; Joop! Tel. 077 413 237; King's Fashion Tel. 077 424 223; Pop's Fashion Tel. 077 230 300; Armani Suits Tel. 077 422 387; Vogue Collection Tel. 077 230 100; G-Armani Tel. 077 230 456.

Thai Silk

Thailand's famous silk remains a perennial take-home favourite. Samui's tailors and fabric shops can provide a wide variety of different colours, designs and quality. It's much cheaper than in the West, but don't be tempted by incredible bargains, especially at market stalls – even if the label does claim 100% silk.

Shopping Feature



Armani Suits International

Established over eight years ago, Armani Suits International offers a full range of male and female tailoring services.

Armani Suits International has over 600 different fabrics in over 1000 different colours available. It stocks a comprehensive range of Thai and Chinese silk, Italian wool and cashmere and the finest Egyptian cotton.

The shop now has two branches – the original premises, opposite Central Samui Beach Resort, which stocks their full range of fabrics and caters to all price requirements. The new, smaller, outlet located at the Central Shopping Arcade specialises in luxury, imported, fabrics, including Super 120's Cashmere by Gabbedine and Lucio Romano.

The best-selling style at Armani Suits International currently is the double-breasted pinstripe suit. Tom Ford designs, Italian corduroy, Belgian linen and English cashmere cheque are also extremely popular.

www.armanisuits.com offers a full mail order service. Orders can also be accepted by fax and delivered worldwide. The company's master tailors visit Europe twice every year to take orders.

Armani Suits International employs 20 specialist tailors and dressmakers and can complete an order in three days.

Armani Suits International, Chaweng Beach Road, Tel/Fax 077 422 387. Email: sales@armanisuits.com (Chaweng Map).

Woodcarvings and Ceramics

Carvings and ceramics are widely available at market stalls in Samui. Much of it originates in the craft centres of Chiang Mai, and although the standard of workmanship is variable, it can be high quality. For coconut-wood carvings unique to Samui, check out the stalls at Hin-Ta and Hin-Yai (see Samui's Natural Wonders).

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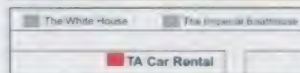
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Healthy Island Living



you can go upmarket to the Chaweng Regent Fitness Centre in Chaweng or the facilities available at many of the 4 and 5-star resorts.

Yoga

Samui is now a place where you can practice serious health regimes and enjoy the most self-indulgent spa treatments. Whether you are into power yoga or passive pampering, there is a wide – and growing – range of options to choose from.

Fitness Centres

With all the good food around, it's very easy to pile on weight during a holiday. But you don't have to leave your regular workout schedule behind. Several gyms on Samui can help you stay in tip-top shape. World Gym in Chaweng and Lamai Gym are the places for those who want to display a little muscle on the beach. Body-building equipment and fitness experts are usually available to get you started at both places. Alternatively,

Yoga is an excellent way to improve flexibility in both body and mind. If you are experienced, try your practice on the beach. You can do your sun salutations early in the morning when the air is cooler and there are few people around. There are also good yoga classes for beginners and veteran yoga stretchers alike at The Spa in Lamai, and classes for children and families at the Health Oasis Resort. For private tuition call Jo Grant at 09 867 7725 or drop by her shop, Inner Guidance, in Bophut (past Angela's Harbourside Café on the right)

Massage

Thai masseurs and masseuses work most of the bigger beaches, so you can have a rub down on the sands. If you want to go further upmarket, a

number of dedicated spas and spa facilities at 5-star hotels offer extensive menus of massages and facial treatments. You can also find foot reflexology at many massage centres.

Eating and Fasting

You can work at getting your digestion into shape by putting good things into your body and getting bad things out. Several spas and centres on Samui offer supervised cleansing and fasting programs. Nutritional consultations, health drinks, tonics, herbs and meditation often complement a fast, which could last from one day to several weeks. Do not fast without professional supervision if you are unfamiliar with the tropical climate.

Hospitals and Clinics

Several clinics and hospitals around the island offer inexpensive health care if you fall sick or have an accident. Samui International Hospitals has the best medical facilities for tourists, multi-lingual staff, a dental clinic and plastic surgery facilities. If you are serious about your bodywork, The Samui Clinic also does cosmetic surgery, Tel. 077 245 236 ext. 116.

An alternative for dentistry is Dr Supaporn's dental clinic on Chaweng Beach Road, Tel. 077 413 770.


SAMUI SPAS

Body Care at Poppies

Innovatively designed rooftop sala pavilion combines total privacy with a commanding sea view. Offers a full range of massage and beauty treatments. Also has a nearby training and development centre open to members of the public who want to learn the secrets of Thai massage. *Central Chaweng, 10am-8pm, Tel. 077 231 368. (Chaweng Map)*

Centara Spa


High-end luxury spa found within Central Samui Beach Resort. Nine private treatment rooms with individual aircon, lighting controls and relaxation music where you can enjoy scrubs, wraps, massages and facials. Centara specializes in treatments for men. *Central Chaweng, 10am-8pm, Tel. 077 230 500. (Chaweng Map)*



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Eranda Herbal Spa

Eranda Herbal Spa makes the most of its hillside location and boasts stunning ocean views over the north coast. It currently offers a range of treatments including the signature Eranda Massage that combines the best of Thai and Occidental massage techniques to stimulate blood circulation and free blockages of negative energy. Just north of Chaweng Beach, 9am-9pm, Tel. 077 422 666. (Samui Island Map V13)

The Imperial Spa

Offers a comprehensive range of treatments, including massage, scrubs, wraps and facials given in five elegantly designed treatment suites and a walled outdoor sala pavilion. Each room boasts individual features such as a steam sauna, Jacuzzi, deep bath and multi-directional showers to further enhance your visit. At The Imperial Boathouse Resort, 10am-10pm, Tel. 077 425 041/52 ext.8123. (Koh Samui Map X15)

Kwan-Jai International

Offers specialized healing therapy treatments, such as aromatherapy, colonic irrigation, live blood analysis, physiotherapy, electrical/magnetic therapy, hydrotherapy, ultrasound and ozone therapy in state-of-the-art premises. Also offers a range of massage and beauty treatments. Central Chaweng, 10am-8pm. Closed Sundays. Tel. 077-230-171. (Chaweng Map)

Laem Set Spa

Making the most of its secluded and remote location, Laem Set Spa specialises in a range of half-day treatment packages that combine herbal steam sessions with wraps, facials, body scrubs and massage. At the Laem Set Inn, 10am-6pm, Tel. 077 418 063. (Koh Samui Map M3)

Spa Samui Resorts

Famed world-wide for its controlled cleansing and fasting programmes, The Spa resort on Lamai beach offers both half and full-week fasts that include specially-prepared drinks and nutrition tablets and support and advice throughout your stay. Also offers massage and facials and has onsite bungalow accommodation. The recently opened Spa Samui Village is situated high in the hills above Lamai. Lamai, The Spa Resort: Tel. 077 230 855; The Spa Samui Village: Tel. 077 230 976. (Lamai Map)

Top to Toe

Downtown Chaweng. Top to Toe offers packages galore. The spa's guiding light, Natasha Srion, has had 15 years of experience in Singapore and London and concentrates mainly on the ascetic side of things. Massages are available too, of course. Opposite UFO on Chaweng Beach Rd. Tel. 077 410 049. (Chaweng Map)



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Health Oasis Resort



Spa of the Month

Located in Maenam, the Health Oasis Resort has 36 well-appointed beachside bungalows for guests. The Resort also has its own swimming pool and long established restaurant, which serves an extensive selection of Macrobiotic, Vegetarian, Thai and Italian cuisine.

The Health Oasis Resort offers a wide range of detoxifying fasting and cleansing programmes. The three to fourteen-day courses include herbal steam, skin brushing, light transformation sessions, lymphatising, polarity zapping, spirulina, guavava, chlorophyll, herbal tonic, ocean minerals, oxygen spray, H2O2 body spray, aromatherapy spray, colloidal silver and vibrational blood cleansing nutrition and free yoga and meditation sessions.

Health Oasis Traditional Medical Hospital is fully licensed by the Department of Health and offers accredited training courses in Thai Massage, Yoga, Meditation and Reiki.

Special cleansing programmes include the Intestinal Cleanse, the Liver Cleanse, the Parasite Cleanse, the Kidney Cleanse, the Lungs Cleanse and the Blood & Lymph Power Cleanse. The programme's duration ranges from one to four days.

Offer special three to seven-day programmes including Weight Control, Smoking Withdrawal Support, Stress Release, Cravings, Constipation, Energy Boost, P.M.S. and Candida.

Health Oasis Resort, Maenam, Tel. 077 420 124. (North Coast Map)

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See Lamai Map

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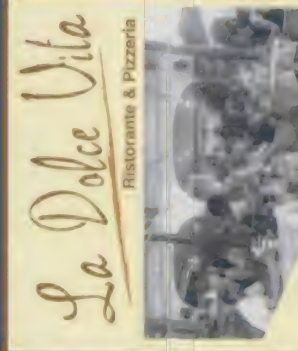
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Watersports and Diving



Diving

The Gulf of Thailand is a great place to try diving, get certified or sample some of its great reefs on half or one-day dive trips. If you have never dived before there are many options available. Discover Scuba Diving gets you straight in the water with an instructor and can take as little as half a day. If you enjoy this and want to learn, you can choose to gain full certification by taking the Open Water Diver course. The operator will offer you a choice of options for completing the course – different locations, boats and even islands. The course takes only four days and will give you an international PADI diving license with which you can go diving all over the world. For the certified diver, you will find the operators on Samui offering a choice between trips to the National Marine Park, Sail Rock and Koh Tao. These are day trips with travel times between one and three hours by boat. The National Marine Park is a beautiful archipelago, with the best diving and clearest waters offered by the islands to the far north called Koh Wao and Hin Nippon Yai and Lek. Further north, Sail Rock is the best-known site in the Gulf, of-

fering a wall dive on the rock, while Koh Tao offers a choice of over 20 dive sites for all experience levels.

Sailing

Thanks largely to the success of the second annual Samui Regatta, sailing in Samui is becoming increasingly popular. The island has excellent weather conditions for sailing – a good all-year-round breeze that is a solid northeasterly between December and April, and a more challenging strong westerly with the occasional violent gust between May and November. Craft available for a day on the ocean waves include yachts, catamarans and more modest windsurf boards.

Kayaking

You can glide across the water's surface near Samui's shores or around the cave-riddled islands of Ang Thong National Marine Park. Sea kayaks are very stable and easy to use. A number of hotels in Chaweng rent kayaks, and several kayaking companies can arrange a full-day tour complete with guides and kayaks in the marine park



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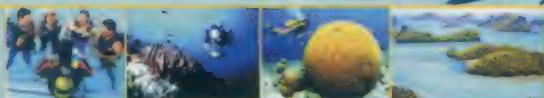
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Easy Divers Divesite of the Month

Aow Luek



Aow Luek means 'The Deep Bay' in Thai, which isn't actually a very fitting name for this dive site as its maximum depth is only 14m.

Located in the South of Koh Tao, Aow Luek is a beautiful bay with a reef formation all along the island. It's a fantastic place for an easy and relaxed dive, as the bay is well protected from currents and waves. If you are traveling with a non-diving friend or partner, this is the perfect place to spend the day together, as there is a lot for snorkellers to see as well.

Under water you will see plenty of stone corals surrounded by parrotfish, banner fish, but-

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terfly fish, blue ringed angelfish and many more species of pelagic reef fish. Hiding in the rocks you might find a porcupine fish and watch out for blue spotted stingrays underneath the coral boulders. There is also a good chance to see a hawksbill turtle, as there are several of them around Koh Tao – Turtle Island.

If you've got a good eye you might even see a stonefish – but please only look and don't touch, as this guy is the most poisonous fish in the ocean!!



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Easy Divers Weather Report

March is the month when the winds change from northeast to southwest, which will be the start for good diving conditions in the Gulf of Thailand.

The sea conditions are now usually less rough and wavy and Chaweng and Lamai beach offer great swimming and snorkelling conditions.

By Marita Fassbender, Dive Instructor, Samui Easy Divers, Tel: 077 413 373 or 01 970 69 50, info@easydivers-thailand.com, www.easydivers-thailand.com

Two more five-day storms well into the New Year curtailed any sailing activity in January. At the end of the month, 25-knot onshore winds coupled with high tides, had the beach catamaran operators desperately hauling their boats out of reach of the seas. Inside the lagoon, waves were sweeping over the normal protective reef and completely covering the beach. Such were the conditions that Kunta of Samui Ocean Sports had to move all his boats to the safety of Ban Rak.

Bad news for the snorkelling fans who enjoyed the pristine reefs at Koh Tae Nok off the west coast of Koh Phangan, as this venue is now very much off limits. Last week a regular tour boat was threatened by the security guards that guard the bird nests on the island stating "In the future any snorkellers swimming over the reefs will be shot!" As these tourists merely swim and never venture onshore, it's hard to imagine what harm they can do.

Only one cruising yacht visited this month, the smart dark blue 50-foot sloop Halo. Let's hope they stay for our forthcoming regatta in May.

Contact Cap'n Squall on 077 230 602 or e-mail: squall@samart.co.th

Sailing Scene with Cap'n Squall

DIVING

Easy Divers: 077 413 373

Abyss

Dive Centre: 077 427 720, 01 677 4251

Mui Divers: 077 232 160

Samui International

Dive School: 077 422 386

Travel Solutions

(watersports consultants): 077 230 203

SAILING

Coco Sailing: 09 726 5728

Samui Duanjan Boat Charter: 09 1181067

Samui Ocean Sports: 01 9401999

Tradewinds: 077 230 602

SEA KAYAKING

Blue Stars Kayaking: 077 413 231



Coco Sailing

Coco Sailing Co. Ltd.

Contact Kunta: 01 940 1999 or Peter: 09 726 5728
Unit B4 Time Square, Chaweng, 90/13 Moo 2 Tambol Bophut,
Amphoe Koh Samui, Suratthani 84320 Thailand
Tel/fax: (66) 0 7742 2248 • trisail@ji-net.com • www.cocosamui.com

Build • Charter • Service

Restaurant GUIDE

\$\$\$ High end \$\$ Moderate \$ Inexpensive

It is now impossible to list all the restaurants on the island, but here are some of our favourites. The ratings are simply to give you an indication of menu prices. Lower ratings do not imply lower quality. *Bon appetit!*

Bang Po

Health Oasis Resort/Tao Restaurant \$

Serves a wide selection of vegetarian, Thai and Italian food in a pleasant atmosphere. Also offers Thai massage, Thai cooking, meditation and yoga. *Bang Po* on Samui's north coast, Tel. 077 420 124. (Koh Samui Map D15)

Ban Taling Ngam

Baan Chantra \$\$\$

An exquisite restaurant serving royal Thai cuisine prepared to the high standards you would expect from one of the world's top hotel chains. Has both inside and outside seating and the choice between traditional Thai cushions or Western-style tables. Also has nightly entertainment by classical Thai musicians and

dancers. *Le Royal Méridien Baan Taling Ngam*, Tel. 077 429 100 (Koh Samui Map D6)

Lom Talay \$\$\$

Enjoy lunch or dinner at one of Samui's grandest viewpoints. The vista from the restaurant at the Le Royal Meridien Baan Taling Ngam is breathtaking. Lom Talay looks out 180 degrees over Ang Thong Marine National park to the southwest and the picture perfect palm trees of Taling Ngam to the north. The view alone would make the trip worthwhile, but the international and Thai cuisine is equally outstanding. *Le Royal Méridien Baan Taling Ngam*, Tel. 077 429 100 (Koh Samui Map D6)

The Promenade \$\$\$

Savoury seafood, including fresh sea bass, red snapper, deep-sea garoupa, lobster, crab and squid is served at one of Samui's most peaceful and exclusive beachside settings. The chef himself goes to the fishing vil-

lage of Taling Ngam every day to buy the freshest supplies. This restaurant also serves breakfast, lunch and snacks including pizzas and salads. *Le Royal Méridien Baan Taling Ngam*, Tel. 077 429 100 (Koh Samui Map D6)

Bophut

Angela's Harbourside Café \$\$

For all those who know and love the original in Maenam, the Harbourside serves Angela's outstanding array of freshly baked breads, cakes, pies and unique deli items with an added nautical twist. There are seafood items such as the smoked salmon and shrimp omelette on the breakfast menu and delicious "down East" style seafood specialities as well as a mean New England clam chowder for lunch and dinner. *Fisherman's Village*, east of the ferry pier, 8:30am-10pm, Tel. 077 427 212. (North Coast Map)

Osteria
Italian Restaurant

The Finest Traditional Italian Cuisine
Voted as best Italian Restaurant in Samui
Italian Management

Contact:
Alberto 01-0834965
077-422079

Map locations: Zico, LAM DIN MARKET, CHAWENG STADIUM, REGGAE PUB, CHAWENG BEACH ROAD, THE CENTRAL SAMUI

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South African Management

Map locations: LAM DIN MARKET, CHAWENG STADIUM, REGGAE PUB, CHAWENG BEACH ROAD, THE CENTRAL SAMUI

Contact:
Alberto 01-0834965
077-422079

Billabong Surf Club \$\$

The Billabong represents all things Aussie on Samui. That means that the beer never stops flowing, the food comes in huge portions and a friendly welcome is extended to one and all. Food includes doorstop sandwiches, chip butties, chimichangas and nachos available as bar snacks throughout the day and night and traditional Aussie pies, bangers and mash, fish'n'chips, BBQ ribs, lamb chops, down under aussie burgers, 600g steaks and authentic Indian curries served up as main courses. *Fisherman's Village*, 10am-2am, Tel. 077 430 144. (North Coast Map)

The Shack \$\$

Fine Californian cuisine, including the juiciest ribs this side of Sacramento, complemented by regularly changing dips, marinades, rubs and sauces. Aussie steaks and lamb chops are slapped on the barbie every night and the homemade burgers are amongst the finest on the island.

Fisherman's Village, Bophut, open for lunch and dinner everyday (North Coast Map).

Villa Bianca \$\$\$

Serving classic Italian cuisine with a seafood slant, Villa Bianca is nestled among the old converted Chinese shophouses overlooking the water in Bophut Fishermen's Village. Its stark white walls, classy *objets d'art* and well-spaced candlelit tables covered in crisp white linen give the restaurant an unmistakably Mediterranean feel. *Fisherman's Village*, Tel. 077 245 041. (North Coast Map).

Big Buddha

Shabash \$

A huge, sumptuous selection of Asian food prepared Singapore-style. Diverse dishes include Indian curries and homemade mango, lime and mixed vegetable chutneys; Indonesian beef *rendang* and *gado-gado*; Middle Eastern

home-made hummus and falafel; and Singaporean *laksa* and *nasi lemak*. Vegetarian friendly. *Big Buddha*, Tel. 077 245 035. (North Coast Map)

Chaweng

Ali Baba \$\$

Top quality range of Indian favourites, including classic vegetarian fare. Served in a cosy, friendly and centrally located restaurant between Chaweng Resort and Chaweng Cabana. *Chaweng Beach Road*, Tel. 077 422 745. (Chaweng Map)

Betelnut Restaurant \$\$\$

A small, no-gimmicks restaurant with one of Samui's best reputations for seriously fine dining. Owner-chef Jeffrey Lord made his reputation at Poppies before going it alone, and the island's gourmets have remained faithful throughout. Expect a small but highly innovative menu fusing Western and Thai styles. *Chaweng Boulevard*, op-

posite *Central in Southern Chaweng*. Tel. 077 413 370. (Chaweng Map)

Samui Coral Resort - Da Papa \$\$

All your Italian favourites served up right on the beach. Italian-owned and managed, Da Papa has been going strong for eight years now and is still as popular as ever. The cocktail bar is a great spot for a sundowner. *Central Chaweng*, 8am-11pm, Tel. 077 231 005. (Chaweng Map)

The Deli \$\$

Superior sandwiches made from an impressive range of fresh breads including rye, cornpepper, malt, milano and panini. Fillings range from salami, Paris ham and liver sausage to roast lamb and beef, meatloaf and a fine selection of cheeses. For those in a hurry, everything is available takeaway, alongside other treats like duck, goose and pork rilletes, chicken liver parfait, boncafe coffee beans and homemade cookies. *The Deli*.

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KOH SAMUI'S IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT

Central Samui Beach Resort Shopping Arcade, South Chaweng. (Chaweng Map)

The Dining Room at SITCA \$\$\$

A recently opened offshoot of celebrated Thai cookery school SITCA, The Dining Room has quickly positioned itself as one of the finest Thai dining experiences on Samui. The restaurant serves cuisine from all around the Kingdom, but is particularly strong on its local seafood dishes such as fish soup with tumeric, red snapper fillet with cashewnuts and massaman curry with king prawns. Classics such as deep fried fishcakes, mixed satay and deep fried chicken with lemon grass are also taken to new height and there's a well considered wine list. *South Chaweng, 7.00pm-11.00pm, Tel. 077 413 172. (Chaweng Map)*

La Dolce Vita Restaurant & Pizzeria \$\$

La Dolce Vita has an extensive Italian menu featuring

everything from salad caprese, to pizza capriccioso and spaghetti pescatora. The homemade pasta dishes are highly recommended and diners can take their pick from a wide selection of pasta and combine it with your choice of any of the 17 different sauces. Also boasts a decent wine list well selected by the friendly Italian and Norwegian management. *Central Chaweng, 12pm-11pm, Tel. 077 413 295. (Chaweng Map)*

Drop In \$\$

Situated in a large open-air Thai house, the Drop In's menu encompasses Thai, Italian and international cuisine. Everything is very comprehensive – for example, there are seven different kinds of Thai curry, nine different steaks and fifteen different pizzas. The seafood dishes are among the best in Chaweng and include classics such as stir-fried broccoli with prawns and cashew nuts, lobster thermidor and charcoal-grilled red snapper with olive

oil and herbs. The wine list is also unusually wide-ranging. *Central Chaweng, noon-11.30pm, Tel. 077 413 221. (Chaweng Map)*

Gringo's Cantina - Tex Mex Restaurant \$\$

Samui's finest Mexican cantina serves a different special every night of the week and a comprehensive range of south of the border fare. Along with nachos, quesadillas and tortillas wraps, the main menu carries fajitas, tacos, burritos, enchiladas, tostadas, chimichangas and a combo section for those who can't decide. There is also a north of the border food selection of chile con carne, burgers, BBQ ribs, steaks, pizzas and deep fried chicken. The menu has a good selection of vegetarian dishes and a kids menu is available. Gringos remains the best spot for jugs of frozen margaritas and red or white wine Sangria. *Located behind the Islander Restaurant 2pm-midnight, Tel. 077-413-267. (Chaweng map)*

Hagi Japanese Restaurant \$\$\$

See Main Feature.
Chaweng Beach, Tel. 077 230 500. (Chaweng Map)

The Islander \$

Extremely comprehensive British-leaning menu. Start the day with their full monty breakfast then indulge in a selection of tortilla wraps, grilled baguettes and burgers for lunch. For dinner there's a range of nightly specials such as New Zealand roast lamb with mint sauce, beef and vegetable stew in red wine, roast chicken with sage stuffing and mixed grill. Basically, you can eat Sunday lunch fare every night if you like. If you don't, they have an excellent Thai selection, pizzas, curries and lasagne too. *Central Chaweng near Soi Green Mango, from breakfast to late night, Tel. 077 230 836. (Chaweng Map)*



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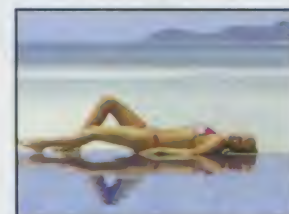
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OLIVIO ITALIAN CUISINE



Khaosan Restaurant and Bakery \$

Friendly roadside restaurant that briskly serves everything from breakfast pancakes to succulent steaks at genuine backpacker prices. The Khaosan also has some of the best authentic Thai food in Chaweng and there's an attached bakery that sells fresh takeaway cakes and pastries. Shows movies throughout the day and at 7.30pm and 9.00pm nightly. *Central Chaweng, 7.30am-midnight, Tel. 09 967 5854. (Chaweng Map)*

Olivio \$\$\$

A beautifully sited and presented Italian *al fresco* restaurant, by the beach just north of Chaweng. René Oskam and his team concentrate on modern Italian cuisine, with such delights as angel hair pasta with lobster, cream and zucchini, and braised lamb shanks with saffron risotto. There are also some classical Italian dishes for those with more conservative tastes. If you have room, the

lemon & thyme mousse with honey sauce should on no account be missed. *Baan Haad Ngam Resort, North Chaweng Beach. Tel. 077 231 500. (Chaweng Map)*

The Osteria \$\$

Long established restaurant offering a wide range of traditional Italian fare, including eight different kinds of bruschetta, favourites such as carpaccio, penne al arrabbiata, gnocchi al gorgonzola and scaloppina al vino bianco (beef in white wine sauce) and specials such as osso bucco and rabbit stew. The atmosphere is very friendly and easygoing. *South Chaweng, Tel. 077 422 079. (Chaweng Map)*

Palm Grove Restaurant \$\$\$

Dishes like rock lobster tail salad served with avocado, hot and sour bell peppers with a yellow mango dressing and Fresh basil risotto with pan-fried sea bass accompanied by spiced tomato salsa and modena syrup brilliantly marry taste and texture

in a host of imaginative and rewarding flavour combinations. The presentation is equally impressive: every dish is a work of art that looks almost too good to disturb on the plate. *At Central Samui Beach Resort, South Chaweng, Tel. 077 230 500, 6.30am-11pm. (Chaweng Map)*

Poppies \$\$\$

A Samui institution that has been open for over 10 years, Poppies creates the ideal balance for the island: delicious, imaginative cuisine coupled with a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. The restaurant's location, beachside in Chaweng, is hard to beat for romantic ambience with its candlelit tables, elegantly attired, attentive staff and unobtrusive live music provided mostly by Khun Fadin, the restaurant's resident guitar player. *Beach Road, south Chaweng, Tel. 077 422 419. (Chaweng Map)*

Samui Seafood \$\$

This sprawling restaurant has beautiful nooks and crannies

that give it an intimate feel. Traditional Thai music, a waterfall and lots of greenery provide an elegant backdrop to a meal of almost any cuisine you can imagine. The menu offers an impressive selection of Thai, Chinese, Italian, German and international cuisine as well as steaks and seafood. *Just behind the Baskin Robbins' shop in Northern Chaweng, Tel. 077 413 221-4. (Chaweng Map)*

Spice Island Restaurant & Treasure Island B.B.Q \$\$

Spice Island has one of the most comprehensive Thai menus to found anywhere on the island and has another 100 dishes on its menu encompassing all regional cuisines. If you've got a favourite Thai dish, you're more or less guaranteed to find it somewhere on the menu. The set menus are highly recommended and offer as broad a tour around the Kingdom's myriad cuisines as you're likely to get in a single meal. *At Central Samui*

continued on page 39



Pick

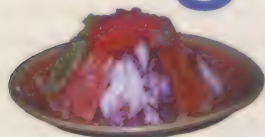
Poppies
for dinner tonight

*Fine Thai
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International Cuisine*

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Hagi



Where is it? Located within the luxurious confines of Central Samui Beach Resort, Hagi is perhaps the hotel's most attractive restaurant: teak walkways line the approach, silkscreen paintings adorn the walls, a fountain bubbles away soothingly inside and polished white pebbles are elegantly dotted around.

What's in a name? Hagi means 'flower of autumn' in Japanese.

So the food must be... Top quality Japanese cuisine. From the ultra fresh sushi and sashimi, which includes yellow fin tuna, salmon, white snapper, octopus and sea bass to the succulent and juicy beef and duck teriyaki, everything dazzles the eye, the nose and the palette. It's all available *a la carte*, but most customers are



more than satisfied with the three set menus, which include essentials such as garlic rice and miso soup and other treats like pork *shoga yaki* (fried sliced pork with ginger) and green tea ice-cream.

Anything really special? The *Saba Teriyaki*, Norwegian mackerel cooked with dry heat and lightly glazed with teriyaki sauce, melts in the mouth and is exceptionally tasty.

And to drink? Sake of course. Hagi serves *Tamon* and *Caronkuchi* rice wine, warm or chilled but, given the quality, it seems a shame to deaden the flavour with unnecessary heat. There's also palette-cleansing green tea, which is served throughout the meal, or Japanese Kirin beer, which makes a welcome change to Heineken and Carlsberg on the island.

Hagi, Central Samui Beach Resort, Tel. 077 230 500. Reservations Recommended.

Tex Mex



Gringos Cantina



in Chaweng

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Central Samui Beach Resort Chaweng Beach Poppo

Chaweng Beach Road

Ali Baba

When Only The Forest Will Do

Beach Resort, 6.00pm-10.30pm. Tel. 077 230 500. (Chaweng Map)

Tropical Murphy's \$\$

Murphy's has easily one of the best atmospheres in town. Maybe that's because everyone's welcome. The food is just like home with large hearty portions served from 9am to 1am. Start the day with an Irish fry-up and move on to a sandwich for lunch. Favourite dishes include the thick Irish stew and the half roast chicken with veggies, and bangers and mash. With over 100 items on the menu you can't go wrong. There's also a large Thai selection as well as a kids menu available. *Located across the road from McDonalds in central Chaweng. Tel. 077 413 614. (Chaweng Map)*

Via Vai \$\$

The Cappuccio brothers hail from Naples, the home of

pizza, which may help explain why their rates among the best on Samui. Baked very, very briefly in the wood-fired oven, their pizzas are guaranteed to be uniformly thin, crisp and delicious. As well as all the usual favourites (Marguerita, Bianca, capriccioso and calzone) they also serve some great variations like the Greca (ham, olives, mozzarella and feta cheese) and the excellent vegetarian Via Vai (mozzarella, ricotta and spinach). *Central Chaweng, Tel. 077 413 431. (Chaweng Map)*

Yamato \$

Relaxed and comfortable Japanese café serving delicious home cooking all personally prepared by owner/manager Koetsu Kagaya. The sashimi and sushi are ultra fresh and are made with a wide range of fish including Norwegian salmon, tuna, octopus, sea bream and mackerel. There are also rarer treats on offer

including okonomiyaki – a type of Japanese pizza and nikujyaga (Japanese beef stew). To drink there's Asahi beer, an excellent range of sake, soju (Korean vodka) and umesyu (sweet Japanese plum wine). *Central Chaweng. (Chaweng Map)*

Zico's \$\$\$

A new and sleekly modern Brazilian restaurant, gleaming in

the national colours of yellow and green, Zico's has introduced both à la carte dining and a seafood buffet. Even so, its mainstay remains the *churrasqueria* gaucho-style barbecue, with passadors bearing large skewers of every variety of meat imaginable doing a constant round of the tables. A must for carnivores, you can go on eating until you drop. *Beach Road, southern*

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Tel: 0 7742 7212

Chaweng (opposite Central).
Tel. 077 231 560-3. (Chaweng
Map)

Choeng Mon

The White House \$\$

Beachside dining at one of the most sedate spots on the island. The White House's Rucan Sai Lom restaurant has a good variety of immaculately presented Thai and international dishes. The cuisine ranges from smoked salmon, seafood fondue, Caesar and Nicoise salads to stuffed bell pepper, goulash, chilli con carne, pizza and an excellent selection of fresh steamed or grilled fish dishes. *Choeng Mon Beach, Tel. 077 245 315. (Koh Samui Map W15)*

Laem Set

Laem Set Inn \$\$\$

Fine dining at the oldest and one the best-known boutique resorts on Samui. The set lunch

and dinner menus change on a daily basis but always feature several Thai classics as well as imaginative Pacific Rim fare served in a traditional Thai sala pavilion. The sea view from the restaurant is fantastic. *Ban Hua Thanon, Tel. 077 424 393. (Koh Samui Map N3)*

The Reef Café \$\$

The Reef Café sits a few metres from the sea at the fringe of Central Samui Village Resort. The waves lapping nearby, the soft lighting and the al fresco setting make it the perfect venue for a romantic liaison. The long menu covers most bases from Thai favourites such as Mussaman nuea (beef tenderloin in Mussaman curry) and *pla kluk kamin* (fried and marinated fish with tumeric and garlic) to hearty western fare like lamb fillet tips in pommery mustard sauce, bacon and roasted potato and fish and chips (served in a copy of the Bangkok Post, of

course). *Central Samui Village Resort, 077 424 020. (Koh Samui Map N3)*

Lamai

Spa Samui Resorts \$\$

Spa Samui Resorts serve some of the best and most imaginative vegetarian cuisine in the country at two locations in Lamai. Closely linked to the Spas' world famous fasting and rejuvenation programmes, its menu presents a mouth-watering array of healthy and delicious fare, including its signature salads, ultra-light soups and more substantial Thai and international fare. *Spa Samui Beach, Tel. 077 230 855. Spa Samui Village, Tel. 077 230 976. (Both Lamai Map)*

Talay Tai \$\$

Located at Lamai's hippest resort, Long Island, Talay Tai emphasizes healthy organic fare in their sandwich, pasta and salad section. Treats include

plenty of wild rice, tofu, hummus, pita bread and the like. On a less healthy but damn tasty note, they also sell Big Joe's homemade British pies which are considered by many to be the best on the island. Long Island has also secured a supply of (very hard to find in Thailand) cranberry and grapefruit juice, meaning it's the perfect spot for a Seabreeze sundowner. *At Long Island Resort, Lamai, Tel. 077 424-202. (Lamai Map)*

Lipa Noi

Big John's Seafood \$\$

Big John's prides itself on serving some of the finest seafood dishes on Samui. Much of it is locally caught and bought market-fresh daily. The menu offers an extremely comprehensive selection of almost every fish dish imaginable; a couple of outstanding ones are lobster massaman (succulent chunks of lobster cooked in a creamy


Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
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The Islander

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Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
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Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach
Chaweng Beach

Southern Thai curry sauce with peanuts) and steamed pomfret with plum sauce. It's also a great location for sunset dining. *Take the ring road to the west of the island and turn off onto the paved road that leads to the ferry to Donsak, past Lipa Lodge, Tel. 077 423 025. (Koh Samui Map D8)*

Maenam

Angela's Bakery and Cafe \$\$

Amazing array of breads, cakes, pies, salads and sandwiches, all made fresh on the premises. If you're hankering after an English meat pie or a muffin, then you'll get it here. Or perhaps a bagel with cream cheese or cheddar or gruyere, pastrami or salami? Angela's got that too. Not to mention crepes, scones, smoked salmon, sauerkraut, meatloaf and pickles and chutneys. 8.30am-7.30pm, Tel.

077 427 396. (Koh Samui Map M14)

Roma \$\$\$

Making the most of its beachside setting, Roma combines the easygoing tropical charm of Samui with the casual elegance of the finest Italian dining. The modern menu includes superlative treats such as crema di zucca ai pistacchi e aceto ai lamponi (pumpkin cream soup with pistachios perfumed with raspberry vinegar), filetto di branzino ai funghi porcini (grilled fillet of sea bass topped with boletus mushrooms, white wine sauce and a selection of Italian herbs) and involtini alla Romana con polenta al profumo di tartufo (veal roulade with parma ham and basil served with truffles, perfumed polenta and vegetables) as well as more classic fare. *Paradise Beach Resort, 6pm-11pm, Tel. (077) 247 227. (North Coast Map)*

Sala Thai \$\$\$

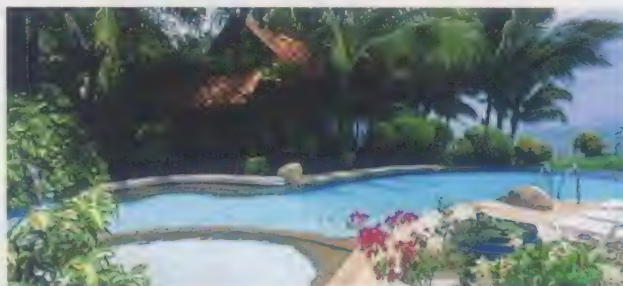
The finest Royal Thai cuisine. From the light and meaty goong kra buang (deep fried minced prawns in a spring roll wrapper) to the delicately spiced *hor mok hoy shell* (steamed scallops in red curry served in a banana bowl), everything is a feast for the senses. All the classics like *gaeng keaw wahn gai* (green curry with chicken) are present as well as more unusual fare like *geang som malakor kab pla insee* (rich orange curry of green papaya and king fish). There's also a well-considered

vegetarian selection, an excellent wine list and unusual range of herb ice creams. *Santiburi Dusit Resort, Tel. 077 425 031. (Koh Samui Map L15)*

Nathon

About Arts and Crafts \$

Excellent café in a handicraft shop, serving a delicious range of veggie breakfast options, homemade muffins, brown rice dishes and health shakes. Also does a decent cup of coffee. *Oceanfront road, south of the pier, 9am-5pm.*





CHAWENG BEACH



KOH SAMUI

Drop In Restaurant

With a reputation as one of Samui's most popular dining attractions, Drop In is a delightful venue for those who wish to savour authentic Thai, International or fresh seafood specialties in an informal open air Thai Garden ambiance.

More Than Just a Restaurant

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Cooking

Lobster Poached in Butter

With Gaeng Kiow Wan and Thai Rice Salad



Gaeng Kiow Wan Sauce

Item	Amount	Unit
Green Curry Paste	0.5	cup
Coconut Milk	1.5	cup
Sugar	1	tbl
Fish Sauce	3	tbl
Cream	2	tbl

Rice Salad

Item	Amount	Unit
Jasmine Rice (chilled)	2	cup
Spicy Basil (julienne)	3	tbl
Diced Tomato	0.25	cup
Diced Spring Onion	2	tbl
Black Sesame Seed	1	tbl
Onion (diced)	2	tbl
Oil	1	tbl
Fish Sauce	2	tbl
Lime Juice	1	tbl

Saute the green curry paste with oil. Add the coconut milk, sugar, cream and fish sauce. Simmer for 2 minutes.

Mix all ingredients together.

For the lobster melt enough butter in a pot to cover the entire lobster. Bring to a very low simmer and add the lobster tail. Poach lobster until done.

From Jan Hollister, Executive Chef at Poppies. North Chaweng. Tel. 077 422 419.

Learn to Cook Thai

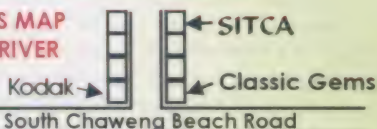
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Recently designated by the Thai government for special development status, Samui is rapidly developing from a budget holiday destination to an upmarket resort island rivalling nearby Phuket. Older and more affluent visitors are arriving in increasing numbers. Many come from Europe and North America to enjoy the tropical holiday of a lifetime – and with the island's improving air links, a growing number of visitors from nearby Asian countries have also come to see Samui as a perfect short-break option.

Many decide that when they return, they would rather trade the formality of a hotel for the serenity of their own luxurious holiday home. Others are so enamoured of Samui's tropical

charms that they decide it would make an ideal place to retire and live permanently in the house of their dreams.

Whatever their motives, there's no doubt that real estate development is currently a boom industry on Samui. From roadside bungalows to beachfront holiday homes to palatial mountain retreats, it's all still available here. If you are seriously considering buying on Samui, then we strongly advise you to seek a full and comprehensive consultation with brokers and developers before deciding which option is best for you.

How is land measured?

Land in Thailand is measured in 'rai', 'ngan' and 'wah'

1 rai = 4 ngan or 1600sq.m
1 ngan = 100 wah or 400sq.m
1 wah = 4sq.m

And that means?

1 acre = 2.5 rai approx.
1 hectare = 6.25 rai approx.

The metric system is normally used when referring to the construction of buildings. Land prices are nearly always expressed in baht per rai – or for smaller plots, baht per wah.

What will it cost me?

Labour and local building materials costs are low, but imported materials cost more than many people expect, and prices of prime beach land (when available!) have soared. Proximity to the beach is the single biggest factor determining land cost. Beachfront land can cost up to fifty times a similar-sized plot in the centre of the island.

What property may foreign nationals own?


- 1) A unit in a registered condominium
- 2) A building (as distinct from its land)
- 3) A registered leasehold of up to 30 years for all types of titled land (and/or buildings)*

* Note that with appropriate extension and purchase options, a 30-year lease can be tantamount to freehold purchase. This is entirely legal, safe and by far the most practical way for foreigners to take possession of land on Koh Samui.

What property is forbidden to foreign nationals?

- 1) Freehold land
- 2) More than 39% of the equity in a Thai company that owns freehold land.

REAL ESTATE



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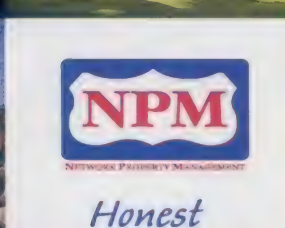
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BROKER
KOH SAMUI
HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Fusion Architecture



Samui, the idyllic holiday island, is fast becoming a permanent home for many people. Having the chance to be actively involved in the design of one's home is imperative to both the owner and the architect.

Most foreigners have a preconceived idea about the look of their house and are sometimes unaware of the real meaning of Traditional Thai Architecture. The beauty of the Thai style house from the outside is not always reflected in the functional

use of space on the inside and may not be applicable to European functional living.

Being able to work with an architect who can provide aesthetics as an integral part of the house – a *fusion* of the functional aspects of European living and the beauty of the local traditions and materials – is paramount.

The opportunity to push the boundary with the introduction of modern and unusual materials needs utmost care, but correct implementation into an otherwise boring or standard design can have stunning effects. Even the introduction of a high tech kitchen into a traditional Thai house can polarize the design.

Choice of materials can destroy or enhance a design. A few projects are underway on the

Santi Thani project that hope to push the architectural boundary of an otherwise quite rigid architectural style. Some plots are being custom designed to maximize the plot location and gradient.

Additionally the design will try to *fuse* traditional/Balinese and modern and at the same time be functionally European in layout. Steel and wood, glass and copper – amongst other combinations; it's a bit like fusion cooking – an agreeable mix is palatable. Other combinations do not taste so nice!

To be able to push the design boundaries and experiment is really down to the relationship between architect and house owner.

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Chaweng Sales Office
Chaweng Beach Road, opp. Starbucks, Koh Samui
Tel/Fax: +66 (0) 77 413 323 - Mobile: 01 979 6486

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www.santi-thani.com www.samsara-samui.com



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Choose
your
designer
carefully!

By Gary Pearmain, Sales and Marketing Director, Coconut Land and House.

Anyone wishing to discuss design, look at plans, costings and contracts and view homes under construction is welcome to visit Coconut Land and House's head office at the Santi Thani development (Koh Samui Map G14).

Property on Samui

Advantage Property – Hin Da Hin Yai,
Tel. 077 418 891

Coconut Land and House – Chaweng (opposite Starbucks),
Tel. 077 413 323 and Maenam, Tel. 077 420 613

Coco International Properties Co. Ltd – Iyara Plaza, Chaweng,
Tel. 077 422 248

1st Asia Properties – Bophut (Route 4169), Tel. 077 422 479

Happy Place's Projects – Big Buddha (Ghost Road),
Tel. 077 245 530

Plantation Project – Bangrak, Tel. 077 427 098

Samrong Lagoon Resort – Tel. 077 427 282

Samui Estate (NPM) – Tel. 06 9999 878

Siam Inter Properties – Bophut (Route 4169),
Tel. 077 245 248, 09 060 7430

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THE VILLAS
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Dusk 'Till Dawn

Samui's nightlife now has a world-wide reputation, and deservedly so. From chilled-out beach bars to dinner cabaret shows, rocking clubs, happening pubs and, of course, the legendary beach parties, there's pretty much something for everyone on the island. So get out there and have some fun. Just remember that all the bars and clubs now have to close at 2am – so try and make the most of your evenings. If you're still not ready for bed and want to carry on clubbing, all is not lost – just head for one of the beach parties.

Top Spots

The Barefoot Bar

The Barefoot provides a great mellow alternative to the shenanigans of Soi Green Mango in Chaweng. It's also the only decent bar within staggering distance of Central Samui Beach Resort. Owner Chad specialises in authentic well-made cocktails that are a cut above the apocalyptic pink concoctions found in most establishments. He also stocks one of the most diverse ranges of liquor in town. *Central Chaweng, next block down from Zico's.*

Billabong Surf Club

High-class Aussie watering hole situated beachside in Bophut. As might be expected the beer flows in vast quantities (including hard-to-find VB), but there's also a decent wine and cocktail list. The atmosphere is

very family friendly and The Billabong also acts as the official clubhouse of the Samui Simians, the island's own rugby team. Anyone interested in a game can contact them there. Also serves food (see Restaurant Guide). *Fisherman's Village, Bophut.*

Christy's Cabaret

Christy's is the place to go if you've got a taste for show tunes, power ballads, big hair, sequins and ladies who aren't quite what they seem to be. With 25 performers putting on a one-hour show, Christy's brings a slice of Vegas to Samui every night. *Central Chaweng, near The Islander. No admission charge, showtime 11pm.*

Dream Girls

Dream Girls offers two floors of go-go action, with a glass ceiling in between and two VIP rooms for private shows.

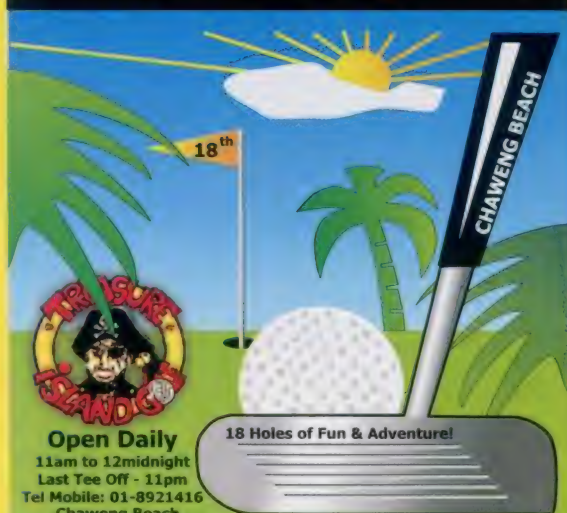


*Koh Samui's newest gogo bar
Soi Green Mango Chaweng*

*No cover charge No hassles
Reasonably priced drinks
2 floors of entertainment*



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Treasure Island
Located directly behind the
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Chaweng Beach

18 Holes of Fun & Adventure!

Admission is free, drinks are reasonably priced and couples are especially welcome. *Soi Green Mango, Chaweng Beach Road, 8pm-2am except public holidays.*

Frog and Gecko

Very friendly beachside bar in Bophut run by long-time Samui residents Graham and Raphaela. They're normally on hand to entertain customers throughout the evening – their weekly quiz night on Wednesdays has proved to be a huge draw. There's an excellent selection of western and Thai food, including some of the best Indian curries this side of the Taj Mahal. The Frog also has Bophut's biggest big screen for showing movies and sporting events and music to suit every taste. *Bophut Fishermen's Village, noon-1am. Tel. 077 425 248.*

Full Circle Club

Full Circle has got one of the best atmospheres in town when it's busy, and it usually is. The front bar caters to the Western dance crowd with decent selections of acid jazz, D&B and house. The back room is the place to see locals strutting their stuff to a rocking live Thai band with a selection of (mostly) female lead singers until midnight when dance DJs take over. *Central Chaweng, near Soi Green Mango.*

Fusion Bar

Fusion has been going for a few years now and is one of the best places to hear house music in Lamai. The resident DJ Chris (Sasha) will get you moving with his funky vocal US garage! Other nights include drum 'n' base. *Lamai, situated 50m from MacDonald's on the same side of road. 7pm-2am.*

Gecko

Gecko's a cool relaxing place, by day or night and light years away from the crush of Chaweng. With Bali-Med style decor, this beach bar is frequented by trendy, house music lovers from all over the world. You can get down in the bamboo lounge or under the stars on the beach, just steps away. Hosts of the 2002 Ministry of Sound world tour, Gecko continues to innovate with its weekly Sunday afternoon beach parties, which start at 2pm and frequently host the cream of international DJs playing alongside resident Gary G. *Next to Euphoria Hotel on Bophut Beach/opposite the Go-Kart track on Route 4169. Tel. 077 245 554.*

Green Mango

So well established they've named the entire street after it, the cavernous Green Mango continues to attract the masses most nights. Expect radio-friendly catchy tunes and the odd classic and you won't be disappointed. After midnight, the dance floor's the busiest in town. *Central Chaweng, Soi Green Mango (where else?)*

Guapa

Guapa sells some of the most imaginative tapas this side of San Sebastian (with an Asian twist of course) and some of the finest liquor this side of New York. The bartenders shake and mix from one of the longest spirit selections available anywhere in Thailand – Guapa's signature Lychee Martini is especially highly recommended. Guapa's casual but classy atmosphere makes it the perfect watering hole for those seeking an altogether more sophisticated evening out than many of Chaweng's bars can offer. *Guapa, South Chaweng, Soi Coliburi, Tel. 09 289 1309.*



The Frog & Gecko Pub

Bophut

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On the Beach in Fisherman's

AS SEEN IN LONELY PLANET

Village

The Islander

Good beer – 12 different types at the last count – and live sport are the name of the game at The Islander. All major sporting events are shown live; don't worry about clashes because there are enough TVs (and bars) to show two games at once. There's a genuine family atmosphere, so bring the kids along too. If you're more inclined to participate in sport than watch it, the full-size slate-bed pool table in the upstairs bar is a must. *Central Chaweng, near Soi Green Mango. (Also serves food: see Restaurant Guide).*

The Pub

Owned and run by Steve from the Isle of Man, The Pub is result of his quest to build just the sort of bar he'd like to drink in. The Pub prides itself on offering a friendly, relaxed atmosphere where everyone's welcome. The music remains at

a low level to encourage conversation and allow Steve to regale customers with anecdotes and gossip, although he quiets down occasionally if there's some good sport on one of the bar's several TVs. *Bophut Fisherman's Village.*

Secret Garden Festival

Still going strong after 13 years, the Sunday afternoon festival is always guaranteed to attract a sizeable crowd with its friendly atmosphere, inexpensive food and decent rock and blues bands. Things get started around 4pm and wrap up about 11pm. *South of the turnoff to the airport on Big Buddha Beach, 100 metres from Big Buddha Pier. Call 077-245-255, or 06-282-7852 for details. Admission free.*

Sunset Bar

With spectacular sunsets over the calm waters and wicked



views of Koh Phangan, Koh Som and the Big Buddha Temple, this bar takes a lot of beating. Open from 5pm-2am every evening, you can watch the amazing sunsets and listen to really cool chilled house music. The drinks are very reasonably priced and the friendly, easygoing, English-speaking staff are always happy to help. *Big Buddha beach about 100m from the Koh Phangan ferry pier towards Big Buddha temple.*

Central Chaweng, next to the Beachcomber Resort.

Tropical Murphy's

Good-value Irish pub with a great atmosphere and packed every night. If you're hungry, then this is the spot for blinding pub grub. Between 2pm and 5pm every day, you can pick up a pint of Carlsberg for only 50 baht. There's also draught Guinness and Kilkenny, of course. The bustling atmosphere gives the place a genuine pub feeling and the 10 (yes, 10) TVs give you every angle on all the sports that are happening as they happen. For sport fans, this bar is hard to beat. Also check out the bar upstairs with its darts, pool tables and Monday karaoke. Murphy's has live music through the week. *Located across from McDonald's in Chaweng. Tel. 077 413 614*

The Three Monkeys

This new bar seems to have it all: free internet for customers, pool, great food, sparkling atmosphere, and a clientele that appreciates the finer things in life. The Three Monkeys is the brainchild of three good friends and the personal, friendly vibe shows. Easy to find, many already consider The Three Monkeys a cut above the rest.

Guest

Tapas

Mix of garlic, white wine & herbs	110
Little crab cakes with breaded Caesar salad	200
Caramelized onion, pepper and roast duck quesadilla	130
Cajon mini fish and chips	120
Hot tuna tossed with lime juice, onion and cilantro	140
Hot chicken cheese and lime baked in pigskin pastry	150
Creamy soft shell crab with tomato	160
Wanko tuna Katsu	140
Brie cheese and marinated olive plate with crostini	250
Calamari fritti with Creole tartar sauce	120
Lamb meatballs in massaman curry	160
Potato salad with lardons, capers & quail eggs	120

Tropical Tapas Bar

For Dinner Reservations
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Chaweng Beach Road
Pattaya

THE THREE MONKEYS
Pub & Restaurant

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- Relax corner with free internet

Open Daily 10:30 am - 2:00 am
Located at Chaweng Beach Road
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Tel. 0 7742 2504

Shaun The Barman's Nightlife Round-up

The bars where I'll be doing most of my drinking this month are:

Molotov

One of the newest bars in Chaweng – serves all-day breakfasts, snacks and Sunday lunches. An excellent range of beers, spirits and cocktails, including the explosive house special. Live football and other sporting events are screened regularly. Great music and a relaxed atmosphere. Free Internet access for patrons. *Soi Colibri, Open 8am-2am.*

POD

With a cocktail list compiled by legendary drinks guru and Arena correspondent Dick Bradsell and staff uniforms designed by Richard James (British Menswear Designer Of The Year) no one can accuse POD of not making an effort. The sleek modern design and excellent tunes supplied by Gilles Peterson combined with killer

drinks make POD an essential destination for anyone seeking a classier alternative to the antics of central Chaweng. I can personally recommend the mojitos, because I make them. POD is a trance free zone! *Soi Colibri, South Chaweng, opposite Central Hotel, Tel. 01 891 4042. Open 6pm to 2am.*



Bar Solo

A reputation for mellow early evening parties with funky house from resident 'Simon Solo' and guest DJs. Unbeatable

prices for all its irresistible cocktails from 8pm-12am. Twice monthly special events: 'Playboy Mansion' – unmissable, and 'Evolution' – a huge outdoor party with top international Thai and western DJs. Every Friday night 'Passion' party. Tucked away in its own tropical garden...miss it and your missing out. *Soi The Club, behind Starbucks, central Chaweng.*

My Top 10 albums for March – in no particular order.

- Dwele – "Subject"
- Various Artists – "Studio One Story"
- Kelis – "Tasty"
- Jazzanova – "Remixed"

- Roy Ayres – "Unreleased Stuff"
- Ty – "Upwards"
- Gilles Peterson – "Eclectic"
- Outcast – "Speakerboxxx/Love Below"
- Carl Craig – "The Detroit Experiment"
- Cinematic Orchestra – "Man With A Camera"

Party News

Bad news for party people all over the Kingdom – as we were going to press it was reported that the fun-loving government has decided that all bars not in specified entertainment zones will have to close at 12am, instead of 2am. Unbelievable. It's not clear how this will have effected Samui by the time you read this, but if you find yourself wandering around Chaweng in March with nowhere to go for a drink but the 7-Eleven, you know who to blame!

And finally, I'm sad to report that the famous Rocky Bay Beach Parties are no more. Always a lot more fun than Koh Phangan, the Freedom Beach, Ritual Beach and Black Moon nights have now moved south to Koh Taen, which is a boat ride away – thankfully it's only a short one! Still, they'll be using the same top quality sound and light systems and booking the usual big name international DJs so providing you all make an effort to get over there it should be as massive as ever. I'll definitely be going...

see you there,

Shaun

When he's not partying around town Shaun the Barman can be found at POD.

CHRISTY'S CABARET

New Location - Air Conditioned Shows Free at Christy's - Starts 11 PM

Chaweng Beach Road

The Islander | Samui Hot Club

CHRISTY'S CABARET

a new bar

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POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Emergency	1155
Nathon	(077) 421 095
Chaweng	(077) 422 067
Lamai	(077) 424 068
Maenam	(077) 425 070
Bophut	(077) 425 071

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Samui Hospital	(077) 421 230
Samui International Hospital	(077) 422 272
Bandon Inter. Hospital	(077) 425 382
Dental Clinic Dr. Supaporn	(077) 413 770
Immigration Office	(077) 421 069
Ferry (Donsak)	(077) 371 205
Airport, Samui	(077) 425 012
Airport, Bangkok	(02) 535 1111
Tourism Authority of Thailand	(077) 420 504

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Siam Commercial Bank	(077) 420 186
Thai Farmers Bank	(077) 421 200
Siam City Bank	(077) 421 110
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Krung Thai Bank	(077) 421 503
Government Savings Bank	(077) 421 119

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AL-Air India	(02) 253 0557-8
NZ-Air New Zealand	(02) 254 8440-9
AZ-Alitalia	(02) 634 1800-9
NH-All Nippon Air	(02) 238 5121
PG-Bangkok Airways	(02) 229 3456-63
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CX-Cathay Pacific	(02) 263 0616
CI-China Airlines	(02) 253 5733
EK-Emirates	(02) 260 7400-4
BR-EVA Air	(02) 240 0890

JL-Japan Airlines	(02) 692 5151-65
KL-KLM	(02) 679 1100
NG-Lauda Air	(02) 267 0873-9
LO-Lot-Polish	(02) 235 2223-9
LH-Lufthansa	(02) 264 2400
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Greece	(02) 247 1068
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Italy	(02) 287 2054-7
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Korea	(02) 247 7537
Malaysia	(02) 286 1390
Netherlands	(02) 254 7701-5
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Spain	(02) 252 6112
South Africa	(02) 253 8473-6
Sweden	(02) 254 4954-55
Switzerland	(02) 253 0156-60
Taiwan	(02) 251 9274-6
U.S.A.	(02) 205 4000

Planes

There is only one domestic airline that flies into Koh Samui – Bangkok Airways. They also own and run the only airport. Check out the flight times over the page. If your next destination is Malaysia, then fly from Samui to K.L. with Pelangi Air Thurs/Sun only. Bangkok Airways also fly most days to Singapore direct from Samui. When you're travelling from Samui to Bangkok and you want to save some money fly with Thai Airways from Suratthani – you will save about 900B but add four hours to your journey. Flights to Krabi are back on. When leaving Samui Airport, be prepared to pay the 400B Airport tax for domestic flights and 500B for international flights. Make sure you buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment and always reconfirm your flights at least 24 hours in advance. Travelers to Australia are now able to obtain electronic visas from Travel Solutions (see below). Most European citizens, Canadians and U.S. citizens are eligible to apply.

Trains

When travelling from Bangkok to Samui, it is highly recommended you get a night sleeper train. These trains are more comfortable and ensure smoother bus and ferry connections. All trains run from Hualamphong Station. We advise that you buy a combination ticket which will include all your transport right through to Samui. Train tickets can vary greatly in price depending on the carriage class and whether the carriage is air-conditioned or fan. Expect to pay around 690B + for a ticket. The last sleeper now leaves at 19.15. Train fares have increased again and are higher at weekends. When you're travelling from Samui up to Bangkok the last ferries that connect to a bus to take you to Suratthani train station leave from Nathon at 13.30, 15.00 and 15.30. The prices differ for each as they are run by different companies. There are many trains leaving every evening going to Bangkok. We advise that you book the ticket early as the better the connection will be. Try to book the train at least 4 days in advance to ensure a seat and sooner during festival periods. From Suratthani you can catch trains to Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Malaysia amongst others. For Singapore you must buy the last leg in Malaysia.

Automobiles

There are bus services to most destinations in Thailand. Bangkok to Samui buses leave from the Southern Bus Terminal. There are V.I.P, first and second-class buses available. These are all air-conditioned. For an easier and cheaper journey, buy a bus/boat combination ticket from Khao San Road. The price for a V.I.P bus from Samui to Bangkok is around 450B including the ferry from Nathon to Suratthani. The bus journey takes around 12 hours. As a rule buses are not to be relied upon especially if you have a connecting flight. Prices increase during peak seasons and public holidays. For VIP buses from Samui to Bangkok, the ferry leaves Samui at 13.30. To get to Suratthani town from Samui, it will take approximately 3 hours. You will usually have a 2 hour wait either at the pier or in Suratthani town for the bus up to Bangkok depending on the company you are travelling with. This bus will drop you off on the famous Khao San Road. There are daily early morning bus services to Phi-Phi, Khao Lak and Koh Lanta from Samui whilst Krabi, Phuket and Khao Sok have an additional afternoon service. The 8.00am Seatan Express to Krabi is the fastest. Heading south buses also go to Penang and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and even Singapore. Whether travelling from the airport or from Nathon pier, the cheapest mode of public transport is a songthaew (the covered, red pick-up trucks). If you do get a private taxi (usually yellow), agree on a price with the driver first! They do not run their meters and there are fixed prices for different destinations.

Extending Your Stay

Foreigners are allowed to stay 30 days in the kingdom without a visa. If you have a tourist visa, these generally last for 60 days, with the opportunity to extend another 30 days. A visa extension now costs 1,900B. Overstaying your visa costs 200B per day, with a maximum fine of 20,000B payable on exit from Thailand. To extend your visa, or for other immigration questions, go to Samui's Immigration Office. From Nathon, go south on the ring road 1km to the traffic lights. Turn right and you will see the office on the right hand side. Office hours are Monday to Friday 8.30 -16.30.

Ferries

Songserm Ferries run a regular service between Suratthani and Nathon. (The 13.30 Songserm express boat is the current scheduled service). Seatan Express currently run an 08.00am service from Samui that connects with the 12.35 flight and a 15.00 service from Samui that connects with the 19.15 flight, both to Bangkok, from Surat Thani airport. *Please note these services are often disrupted/cancelled on a daily basis in Oct-Dec subject to sea conditions.* Check times with your tour operator or with the staff at Travel Solutions. These services also depart from Koh Phangan but an hour earlier.

By Philipa at Travel Solutions. If you have any further questions or need help booking any tickets, tours, diving or accommodation, please drop into our beach office on Chaweng Beach (turn off by Pizza Hut). Tel/Fax. 077 230706, Tel. 077 230203, Mobile: 01 892 6520. Email : info@travelsolutions.co.th Website : www.travelsolutions.co.th

FERRY TIMETABLES

Raja Car Ferries (approx. 2hrs)

Every 2 hours on the even hour
between 08.00 - 18.00

Seatan Car Ferries

(approx 2hrs)

Every 2 hours on the odd hour
between 05.00 -19.00

Seatan Express

Suratthani	Donsak	K.Samui	K.Phangnan
08.30	09.30	10.30	11.00
15.00	16.00	17.00	17.30
K.Phangnan	K.Samui	Donsak	Suratthani
07.00	08.00	09.00	10.00
14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00

The services to Suratthani have connecting transfers to the train station and the airport via Suratthani Town.

Lomprayah Catamaran Timetable

TIME TABLE	BANGKOK	HUAHIN	CHUMPHORN	PHANGNAN	PHANGNAN	SAMUI
	DEPT	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR.
CATAMARAN	06:00	08:30 09:40	12:00 12:30	14:00 15:00	16:00 16:10	16:40
	21:00	23:30 23:40	04:00 07:30	09:00 09:30	10:30 10:40	11:10
TIME TABLE	SAMUI	PHANGNAN	PHANGNAN	CHUMPHORN	HUAHIN	BANGKOK
	DEPT	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR. DEPT.	ARR.
CATAMARAN 2	08:00	08:30 08:40	09:40 10:00	14:00 15:00	16:00 16:10	16:40
	21:00	23:30 23:40	04:00 07:30	09:00 09:30	10:30 10:40	11:10

TIP OF THE MONTH

When you leave Samui make sure you have more to talk about than the turquoise sea. Don't miss out on the adventure safaris that'll give you more of a taste of life on Samui.












Tel. 077 230 203
info@travelsolutions.co.th

Answers to The Frog & Gecko's Pub Quiz in Samui Scene.

1. The Dead Sea 2. Himself 3. Springboks 4. 180 degrees 5. USA

Where to stay (See Maps For Locations)

Accommodation Listings

 Hotel	 Air-con	 Television	 Mini-bar	 Beach	 Swimming Pool	 Fitness Centre
 Bungalow	 Fan	 Telephone	 Restaurant	 Seaview	 Spa	 Sailing or Diving
						 Children's Amenities



BANG PO

Health Oasis Resort Tel. 077 420 124 36 rooms/250-1,350 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

BAN TAI

Natural Wing Tel. 077 420 871-2 27 rooms/2,200-2,800 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

BIG BUDDHA

Chalee Bungalow Tel. 077 245 035 7 rooms/700-1,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Happy Place Resort Tel. 077 245 530 8 rooms/540-1,440 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Nara Garden Beach Resort Tel. 077 425 364 43 rooms/1,100-3,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Oriental Samui Resort Tel. 077 427 192 25 rooms/300-1,400 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Samui Mermaid Resort Tel. 077 425 282 40 rooms/300-1,200 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

BOPHUT

Ban Kaew Ruean Kwan Tel. 077 245 315 3 houses/4,200-6,300 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Sandy Resort Tel. 077 425 352-4 70 rooms/1,200-1,400 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

The Waterfront Tel. 077 427 165 14 rooms/1,590-4,200 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Samui Palm Beach Tel. 077 425 494 50 bungalows/3,300-7,500 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

The Lodge Tel. 077 425 337 10 bungalows/1,200 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

CHOENGMON

Bay View Village Tel. 077 427 500-2 65 rooms/2,500-3,150 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Imperial Boat House Tel. 077 425 041 216 rooms/5,500-9,100 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

The White House Tel. 077 425 233 40 rooms/3,000-4,700 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

CHAWENG

Amari Palm Reef Tel. 077 422 015 104 rooms/US\$100-150 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Banana Fan Sea Hut Tel. 077 413 483 40 rooms/3,500-7,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Baan Samui Resort Tel. 077 230 965 79 rooms/3,600-5,500 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Banana Fan Sea Samui Tel. 077 413 483-6 83 rooms/3,500-7,000 bath ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Baan Haad Ngam Tel. 077 231 500 40 rooms & Villas/3,000-10,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Baan Hin Sai Tel. 077 422 624-7 45 rooms/2,500-4,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Beachcomber Tel. 077 422 041 58 rooms/2,800-4,500 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Blue Lagoon Tel. 077 422 037 71 rooms/2,900-6,300 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓


Central Samui Beach Resort Tel. 077 230 500 208 rooms/6,800-28,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Central Bay Resort Tel. 077 422 118 48 rooms/1,000-1,200 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Chaba Cabana Beach Resort Tel. 077 231 350 80 rooms/3,800-18,000 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Chaweng Resort Tel. 077 422 230-1 70 rooms/1,500-4,500 baht ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓




 **Samui Palm Beach Resort**

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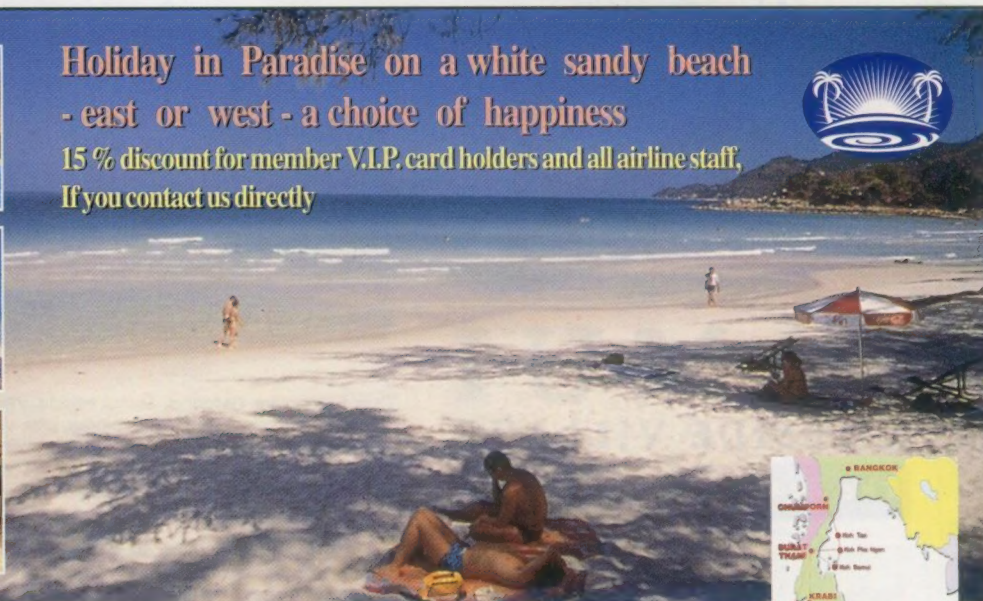
Exclusive, but natural garden setting,
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Nara Garden Beach Resort - Big Buddha Beach - 84320 Koh Samui
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Samui Marina Cottages	Tel. 077 233 394-6	40 rooms/1,200-2,000 baht	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Samui Village	Tel. 077 424 020	99 rooms/3,200-5,000 baht	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Samui Orchid Resort	Tel. 077 424 017	50 rooms/1,100-1,900 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
LIPA NOI International Bungalow	Tel. 077 423 186	14 rooms/600-1,500 baht		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
LAMAI Aloha Beach Resort	Tel. 077 424 014	80 rooms/1,625-4,000 baht	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Galaxy Resort	Tel. 077 424 411	47 rooms/1,000-2,200 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Long Island Resort	Tel. 077 424 202	40 rooms/750-3,000 baht		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Samui Laguna Resort	Tel. 077 424 215	63 rooms/1,100-1,600 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Samui Park Resort	Tel. 077 424 008-10	58 rooms/1,500-2,000 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Sand Sea Resort	Tel. 077 231 126	40 rooms/1,000-4,500 baht		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Seaview Paradise	Tel. 01 956 2184	10 rooms/1,000-3,000 baht		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							✓
The Spa Resort	Tel. 077 230 855	16 rooms/250-1,800 baht		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓				
The Pavilion Resort	Tel. 077 424 420	22 rooms/US\$70-100		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Weekender Resort	Tel. 077 424 429	75 rooms/1,140-2,100 baht		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
MAENAM Maenam Resort	Tel. 077 425 116	36 rooms/1,000-2,000 baht		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓							
Paradise Beach Resort	Tel. 077 247 227	97 rooms/3,800-1,600 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Santiburi Dusit Resort	Tel. 077 425 031	73 rooms/US\$340-900	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shady Resort	Tel: 077 425 392	15 bungalows/500-1,500 baht		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓							
TALING NGAM Le Royal Meridien Baan Taling Ngam	Tel. 077 429 100	72 rooms/US\$210- 3,000	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TONG SAI Tong Sai Bay Cottages	Tel. 077 425 015	72 suites/10,890 baht	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TONG YANG International Bungalow	Tel. 077 423 025	14 rooms/600-2,500 baht		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓



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Office:
 Tel. 077 245 601-8,
Chaweng Office,
Samui:
 Tel. 077 422 234,
 077 422 512-9

BANGKOK - SAMUI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 111	0610	0740	Daily
PG 113	0630	0800	Daily
PG 117	0700	0800	Daily
PG 123	0800	0930	Daily
PG 131	0920	1050	Daily
PG 135	1010	1110	Daily
PG 137	1030	1200	1...5..
PG 141	1100	1230	12..56.
PG 145	1140	1240	Daily
PG 147	1200	1330	Daily
PG 149	1230	1400	Daily
PG 151	1300	1400	1...45..
PG 157	1340	1510	Daily
PG 161	1420	1550	1...5..
PG 165	1500	1600	Daily
PG 167	1520	1650	Daily
PG 169	1620	1720	1..45..
PG 173	1620	1750	Daily
PG 185	1840	2010	Daily
PG 189	1900	2030	Daily
PG 191	1920	2050	Daily
PG 193	1940	2040	12..456.
PG 199	2100	2200	Daily

SAMUI - BANGKOK			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 108	0700	0800	Daily
PG 110	0720	0850	Daily
PG 114	0820	0950	Daily
PG 116	0830	0930	Daily
PG 124	1000	1130	Daily
PG 132	1110	1240	Daily
PG 134	1140	1240	Daily
PG 140	1220	1350	1...5..
PG 142	1250	1420	Daily
PG 144	1310	1410	Daily
PG 150	1420	1550	Daily
PG 152	1440	1540	1..45..
PG 160	1600	1730	Daily
PG 162	1620	1750	Daily
PG 164	1630	1730	Daily
PG 166	1650	1820	1...5..
PG 168	1710	1840	Daily
PG 170	1750	1850	1..45..
PG 172	1810	1940	Daily
PG 186	2030	2200	Daily
PG 188	2050	2220	Daily
PG 190	2110	2240	Daily
PG 194	2120	2220	12..456.

Days: 1. Mon 2. Tue 3. Wed 4. Thu 5. Fri. 6. Sat 7. Sun

SAMUI - KRABI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 261	1330	1420	Daily

KRABI - SAMUI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 262	1450	1540	Daily

SAMUI - SINGAPORE			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 503	1550	1920	Daily

SINGAPORE - SAMUI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 504	2010	2140	Daily

PATTAYA - SAMUI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 253	1210	1310	Daily

SAMUI - PATTAYA			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 252	1040	1140	Daily

PHUKET - SAMUI			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 252	0920	1010	Daily
PG 254	1510	1600	Daily

SAMUI - PHUKET			
Flight	Departure	Arrival	Days
PG 251	0800	0850	Daily
PG 253	1350	1440	Daily

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